

# Behind Chechen Terrorism: The London-Riyadh-Turkey Axis

Special to EIR

Feb. 2—On Jan. 11, 2000, *EIR* submitted a memorandum to then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, demanding that Britain be put on the list of states sponsoring terrorism. The memorandum provided the evidence from official complaints against London by the governments of a dozen countries, which had demanded that London cease giving sanctuary and assistance to accused and convicted terrorists from those countries. London's role in providing a safe haven for Islamist terrorists to arrange funds, publicity, and recruitment was so flagrant that the U.K. was dubbed "Londonistan" by French intelligence agencies even before 9/11.

London's aid to the terrorists of Chechnya and other Islamic extremist groups from the Russian North Caucasus was one of the major cases. The *EIR* memorandum stated:

"On Nov. 14, 1999, the Russian Foreign Ministry filed a formal protest to Andrew Wood, Britain's Ambassador in Moscow, after two Russian television journalists were brutally beaten as they attempted to film a London conference, where [Osama] bin Laden's International Islamic Front, Ansar as-Shariah, Al-Muhajiroon, and other Islamist groups called for a jihad against Russia, in retaliation for the Russian military actions in Chechnya.

"One of the victims of the beating, ORT cameraman Alexandr Panov, told *Kommer-sant* that he was 'very surprised' at the indifference of the British government. Some of the participants at the 'charity' event were people wanted by Interpol, but Scotland Yard, although evidently aware of their residence [in Britain], does not react.

"On Nov. 10, 1999, the Russian government had already filed a formal diplomatic

démarche via the Russian Embassy in London, protesting the attacks on the Russian journalists, and also the admissions by Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, the head of the 'political wing' of the bin Laden organization, Al Muhajiroon, that the group was recruiting Muslims in England to go to Chechnya to fight the Russian Army. Bakri's organization operates freely from offices in the London suburb of Lee Valley, where they occupy two rooms at a local computer center, and maintain their own Internet company. Bakri has admitted that 'retired' British military officers are training new recruits in Lee Valley, before they are sent off to camps in Afghanistan or Pakistan, or are smuggled directly into Chechnya."

Today, the North Caucasus terrorists—through their key role as commanders in the al-Qaeda-allied rebel armies in Syria—are being supported more than ever



YouTube

A Jan. 19, 2014 video, seen here on YouTube, shows two jihadi fighters in Russia, claiming credit, in advance, for the Volgograd suicide bombings. The video promised "a present" for the Sochi Olympics and all those who attend the games.

by London and its allies Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey, with the approval of the Obama Administration. Despite repeated warnings from top U.S. officials in the military and intelligence communities, such as former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morrell, who have identified the al-Qaeda affiliates in Syria as the biggest global terrorist threat today, the Obama Administration continues to facilitate its allies in the so-called “Friends of Syria,” supplying money and arms to these terrorists, who are not only active in Syria, but also Iraq, Lebanon, and in Russia itself.

On Dec. 29 and 30, 2013, the Dagestan-based soldiers of these jihadi armies struck inside Russia with two deadly attacks on major transportation centers in the city of Volgograd. About 35 people died, with nearly 100 others wounded.

On Jan. 19, 2014, a video surfaced showing two jihadi fighters in Russia, who claimed credit, in advance, for the Volgograd suicide bombings. The video promised “a present” for the Sochi Olympics and all the tourists who attend the games, which begin on Feb. 7.

According to the U.S.-based *Long War Journal* (LWJ), the video came from “a group calling itself the ‘Mujahid Subversive Group of Ansar al Sunnah.’” LWJ adds, “The group, which said its leader is ‘Dokku Abu Uthman,’ or Doku Umarov, the chief of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate, released the statement yesterday on the website of Wilayat Dagestan, the Dagestani media branch of the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus.”

Investigations into the decades-long history of Chechen and Northern Caucasus terrorism show that the terrorist armies today have an unbroken chain of relations to the Anglo-American-Saudi support of Osama bin Laden, and the precursors of al-Qaeda, going back to the 1980s Afghanistan war with the Soviet Union. That has now become the jihadi war against Russia.

## Ratline Identified

At the time of *EIR*’s January 2000 memorandum, the London role in the ratline through which Islamist terrorists were being recruited, armed, trained, and indoctrinated in Chechnya was not unknown to official agencies of the United States. And U.S. government documents show that the ratline then was going—as it is now—directly through NATO member Turkey.

An Oct. 16, 1998 report by the Defense Intelligence Agency, entitled, “Usam Ben Laden’s Current and Historical Examples,” released years later to the watchdog organization Judicial Watch under the Freedom of Information Act, states that, “A direct route has been es-



Wikimedia Commons

*The Kavkaz Center is a highly sophisticated website which serves as a multi-lingual clearinghouse for anti-Moscow and anti-Putin initiatives.*

tablished to Chechnya from Pakistan and Afghanistan through Turkey and Azerbaijan. Abu Sayaf (also written incorrectly as Abu Safay) coordinates this traffic of volunteers, as well as drug trafficking, working as a representative of Ben Laden in the Chechen foreign ministry under the protection of Movlady Udugov.”

After the 9/11 attacks in the U.S., the extent of official knowledge of the Chechen-al-Qaeda connection throughout the 1990s was further revealed.

In late 2001, in Illinois, a Federal indictment was filed against Enaam M. Arnaout, chief officer of the Saudi-created Benevolent International Foundation. Documents in that case, *United States of America vs. Enaam M. Arnaout*, show the depth of U.S. law enforcement’s information about the funding networks used by bin Laden and the al-Qaeda networks.

A document filed by then U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald in the *Arnaout* case, reveals extensive information about the Chechen operations, and in a February 2002 press release, the Justice Department announced that Arnaout, “the executive director of Benevolence International Foundation, Inc. (BIF), a purported charitable organization based in south suburban Chicago, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy, admitting that he fraudulently obtained charitable donations in order to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in violent activities overseas.” Arnaout admitted to financing Chechen fighters and agreed to cooperate with the U.S. government in some fashion. (Fitzgerald, Patrick J., *United States of America v. Enaam M. Arnaout*, “Government’s Evidentiary Proffer Supporting the Admissibility of Co-Conspirator Statements,” before Hon. Suzanne B. Conlon.)

The above-cited evidentiary proffer in Fitzgerald’s case against Arnaout and the BIF shows that, as early as 1995, BIF, a Saudi-created charity, was funding train-

ing camps for Islamist jihadis in Chechnya. The document says that “in 1995, Madani al Tayyib (then in the Sudan serving as al Qaeda’s chief financial officer) asked an al Qaeda member to travel to Chechnya through Baku, Azerbaijan, to join with al Qaeda in the fighting in Chechnya.” He was “told that he would be joining up with Ibn al Khattab, a mujahideen leader who had worked in Afghanistan with Bin Laden. At about this time, the website of the Chechen mujahideen indicated that Ibn al Khattab led the Arab contingent of fighters in Chechnya. BIF (and the Global Relief Foundation) had been identified on the Internet website as conduits for financial support to those fighters.”

While Ibn Khattab was killed in 2002, his main mission had been accomplished—establishing the link between the Chechen separatists and the Islamists of al-Qaeda, and setting up the training camps that offered the best instruction in irregular warfare, especially bombing techniques using suicide terrorists.

But, while the U.S. intelligence about the real nature of the Chechen-al-Qaeda danger was vast, it was never used to shut down Islamist networks, for pragmatic reasons: Factions of the U.S. establishment in cahoots with London used the Islamist terror apparatus for covert operations against Russia, especially in Chechnya and other areas of the North Caucasus.

At the very time that the DIA was identifying the al-Qaeda-Chechen connection in 1999, a group of neo-conservative Cold Warriors created the Orwellian-named American Committee for Peace in Chechnya (later, American Committee for Peace in the Caucasus) at Freedom House, an anti-Russian Cold War think tank. ACPC was headed by former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, who developed, along with British intelligence’s Islam specialist Dr. Bernard Lewis, the notorious “Muslim Card” against the Soviet Union, whereby Islamic extremists could be used to wage irregular warfare against the Soviets. That policy, financed by the U.S., Britain, and Saudi Arabia, created al-Qaeda. The roster of the ACPC was a “Who’s Who” of neo-cons, such as Richard Perle, who demanded in 1999 that Russia give up Chechnya completely.

With the West covering up for terrorism, al-Khattab’s operations were very effective. The “Caucasian Knot,” another separatist organization supported by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, calculated the toll from terrorist attacks from 2000 to 2012 inside Russia territory. Claimed mainly by Caucasus jihadi groups, 1,216 persons were killed, and more than 3,263 wounded.

And the U.S. under Barack Obama has openly

joined with the Persian Gulf kingdoms, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with NATO member Turkey, and with London, to finance Islamist fighters in Syria to overthrow the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. As the U.S. itself admitted in December 2013, money and arms that the U.S. and Britain were sending to “non-al-Qaeda” groups in Syria was going directly to al-Qaeda allied groups.

With the Dec. 29-30 terrorist attacks in Volgograd, and the threat to the Sochi Olympics, the spotlight has again been put on the North Caucasus.

But the real threat posed by the West-Persian Gulf-backed jihadis is not a particularized terrorist network against a city or event like the Olympics. The Chechen terror apparatus is an arm of the Anglo-Dutch-led trans-Atlantic establishment that is geared up for war against the Eurasia development bloc led by Russia and China. As Lyndon LaRouche is warning, this showdown, using Islamic terrorism as a tactical weapon, is global, and the threat is nothing less than the early onset of thermo-nuclear war.

### **Jihadis Called Back to the Caucasus**

For nearly three years, Syria has been the playground for the Anglo-Dutch empire, where its irregular warfare troops are hardened. And the Chechens have taken a leadership role in the jihadi armies there.

On Jan. 2, 2013, the *Modern Tokyo Times*, based in the U.S. and Japan, published one of the most thorough publicly available articles on the Chechen and Caucasus terrorists involved in Syria. Entitled, “Russia Hit by Terrorist Attacks: Gulf Petrodollars, Syria and Caucasus Islamists,” the article, by Ramazan Khalidov and Lee Jay Walker, describes the activities of Chechen 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 and other North Caucasians, but increasingly also larger numbers of jihadis and neo-Salafi foreign veterans of the rebel war on Syria.

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

“[V]ast 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 quoted boast-

ing 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.” “Emir of the Caucasus” Umarov also threatened the Sochi Olympics, saying, “We, as the Mujahideen, must not allow this to happen by any means possible.” The “best of the best” that Umarov says are “replenishing” his forces, are the al-Qaeda networks in Syria that are the direct recipients of the Gulf petrodollars.

Citing published material from the Jamestown Foundation, a conservative U.S. think tank with extensive ties to the U.S. military, from Russian news agencies, and from the London *Times*, the article names the Chechen and other Caucasian leaders who have become commanders in the al-Qaeda-affiliates in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the al-Nusra Front.

The threat to the Russian Federation is “just like Afghanistan in the 1980’s,” authors Khalidov and Walker

write, adding that Western intelligence agencies, especially those of Britain and the U.S., used Islamist terrorism as a surrogate warfare attack against Russia.

But this is not ancient history. Khalidov and Walker also note that the Gulf oil sheikhdoms in league with the NATO powers, and using Turkey as a logistics hub and ratline, have created a renewed jihadi threat that goes in an unbroken line from the 2011 overthrow and murder of Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi to the Volgograd attacks of December 2013.

In recent months, Umarov has been calling jihadis back from Syria to fight for their own emirate.

### **Chechen Commanders in Syria**

To stop the new al-Qaeda onslaught, the Chechen and Caucasus terrorism network has to be the first piece of the Anglo-Dutch-Saudi-backed jihadi empire to be shut down.

According to Jamestown Foundation specialist

## **For Further Reading, From our Archives**

- [EIR, April 12, 1996](#). “Britain Rapes the Transcaucasus, Again” provides essential historical background to manipulated conflicts in this northeast corner of Southwest Asia.

- [EIR, Sept. 10, 1999](#). “Brzezinski Plays Britain’s ‘Great Game’ in Central Asia,” includes “[Russia’s North Caucasus Republics: Flashpoint for World War](#).” It appeared days after the outbreak of the Second Chechen War between Russia and the Chechen separatists, which began when the Islamic International Peacekeeping Brigade of Chechen field commanders al-Khattab and Shamil Basayev invaded Dagestan, the largest of Russia’s North Caucasus republics. This article highlights the role of Britain’s Margaret Thatcher and her ally, Lord McAlpine, in promoting North Caucasus separatism, including through financial ties with an early financier of the Chechen insurgency, Hozhahmed Nukhayev.

- [EIR, Jan. 21, 2000](#). “Put Britain on the List of States Sponsoring Terrorism.”

- [EIR, Sept. 17, 2004](#). “LaRouche: Putin Re-

sponds to West’s ‘Storm over Asia,’” deals with the horrific terror attack on the elementary school in Beslan, North Ossetia, in the North Caucasus, by forces under Basayev’s command.

- [EIR, Press Release](#), March 29, 2010. “LaRouche: Look to British Intelligence Behind the Moscow Bombings.” This release was prompted by an escalation of the North Caucasus terror network’s project of reaching deep into the Russian interior, which began with the “Nord-Ost” Moscow theater hostage-taking in October 2002, in which 40 attackers and 130 theater-goers died. Two Russian civilian airliners were downed by suicide bombers in August 2004. Moscow subway bombings killed dozens in two instances in 2004, followed by the March 2010 attack, killing 40, that occasioned this release. In January 2011, 37 died in a suicide bombing of Moscow’s busy Domodedovo Airport. Assassination attempts (one of them successful) on Islamic clerics in Kazan, Tatarstan, in Summer 2012 and terror bombings in Volgograd in 2013 marked a long-anticipated expansion of the North Caucasus-based operations into the Volga River basin. There have been many more terrorist attacks in the North Caucasus proper and the adjacent regions of southern Russia.

- [EIR, Jan. 10, 2014](#). “The Empire Deploys Wahhabi Terrorism against Russia.”

Andrew McGregor, writing for the *Terrorism Monitor*, on Dec. 13, 2013, a major Islamist rebel army, headed by Chechen commanders, has sworn its allegiance to the al-Qaeda-affiliated ISIS, aka ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant). The group, the Islamist Army of Muhajirin and Ansar in Bilad al-Sham, is “dominated by fighters from the Northern Caucasus,” and led by “Abu Omar, an ethnic Chechen from Georgia’s Pankisi Gorge.” McGregor doubts the group’s claim that it has several thousand fighters, but a Dec. 12 report from the Jamestown Foundation warns that “the Chechen groups are among the top ten strongest military groups of the Syrian opposition and, therefore, have substantial influence among them. As the conflict in Syria deepens, the role and influence of the Chechens is likely to increase.”

Like the Syrian rebels, the Chechens are highly dependent on outside assistance, especially from Turkey and from the drug trade that helps finance Islamist terrorist operations. At a press conference on Sept. 9 2013 in Moscow, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem once again brought the Chechen issue to the fore, emphasizing that the Syrian government is not fighting an internal rebellion but an international coalition. “People from the Caucasus and Chechnya are among the terrorists,” Muallem said, adding that “Turkey trains terrorists from 83 countries.”

In May 2013, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pointed to another key point of coordination—the highly sophisticated website KavkazCenter, which serves both as a mouthpiece for Chechen leader Umarov, and also as a multi-lingual clearinghouse for reporting on every possible anti-Moscow and anti-Putin initiative and development, including up-to-date reports on the ongoing destabilization of Ukraine. During a visit to Sweden, Lavrov asked the Swedish government to ban the KavkazCenter website, which was put on the sanctions list of the UN Security Council in July 2011, and had moved to Sweden after being shut down in Estonia, Lithuania, and Finland.

Allegations have been made by Voice of Russia and on the U.S. website, infowars.com, that KavkazCenter, which has operated since 1999, has been funded in the past by the U.S. State Department. Whether or not that allegation can be substantiated, there is no lack of cheerleaders, including former officials of the Chechen separatist government, well-ensconced in Western capitals and the Persian Gulf kingdoms. And the money-flows to the jihadis are not hidden in a maze of front companies, but come directly from government coffers.

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## Documentation

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### ‘Storm Over Asia’

*Here is an excerpt from the transcript of Lyndon LaRouche’s November 1999 “Storm Over Asia,” a feature-length video, now available at <http://larouchepac.com/node/21709>.*

#### Section 1: War in Central Asia

What you’re seeing is a war in the North Caucasus region of southern Russia. What you’re also seeing, is a war which has broken out simultaneously in the border between Pakistan and India.

The forces behind these attacks on Russia and on India are the same. They are a mercenary force which was first set into motion by policies adopted at a Trilateral Commission meeting in Kyoto in 1975: policies originally of Brzezinski and his number-two man there, Samuel P. Huntington; the policies which were continued by then-Trilateral Commission member, that is, back in 1975: George [H.W.] Bush, before he became Vice President.

These were policies which were continued by George Bush as Vice President. Under Bush, this became known as the “Iran-Contra” drug-financed link operations of mercenaries deployed with private funding all over the world: recruited from Islamic and other countries, and targeting Russia’s flank.

This mercenary force, created then, still exists. The primary responsibility for creating the force, was the government of the United Kingdom—most notably, most emphatically, the government of Margaret Thatcher, a policy which has been accelerated and continued in full madness by the present Prime Minister, Tony Blair, of the United Kingdom.

This war, if continued, using mercenaries, can lead to nuclear general war. The major powers principally threatened today by this mercenary operation, are two of the world’s largest nations: China and India; China on its western borders, India on its northern borders.

Iran is also threatened; but, more notably, Russia. If these nations are pushed to the wall by a continuing escalation of a war which is modelled on the wars which the British ran against Russia, China, and so forth, during the Nineteenth Century and early Twentieth



Century, this will lead to the point that Russia has to make the decision to accept the disintegration of Russia as a nation, or to resort to the means it has, to exact terrible penalties on those who are attacking it, going closer and closer to the source, the forces behind the mercenaries—which include, of course, Turkey, which is a prime NATO asset being used as a cover for much of this mercenary operation in the North Caucasus and in Central Asia.

This is our danger. The weapons the Russians have, are no longer the large armies, the capabilities we thought of under the old Ogarkov Plan of the 1980s. Those vast armies are dissipated, weakened. Russia is ruined almost, by a vast economic destruction, caused by IMF policies, and related policies. But Russia still has an arsenal, an arsenal of advanced weapons, and laboratories which can match the weaponry—most advanced weaponry—being developed in the United States, Israel, Britain, and elsewhere.

If Russia is pushed to the wall, or decides to disintegrate willfully, or fight back, the likely thing is, it will fight back. It will use the weapons it has. It does not have the weapons to win a war, but it has the weapons sufficient to impose a powerful, deadly deterrent on the nations behind the mercenary forces which are presently attacking it. There lies the danger.

Unfortunately, most people in the United States are living under the delusion, that with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the combined military power of the United States and its British Commonwealth allies—including Australia, New Zealand, and so forth, countries that are really under the British Queen personally, as the United Kingdom is—believe that these forces, Anglo-American forces, are so powerful, that they can ignore the United Nations Security Council, and conduct wars on their own, with impunity.

Most Americans tend to believe that, and believe they don't have to worry about foreign wars. They don't have to worry about terrible things happening in Africa or South America, or Eurasia generally. "It won't come here," just as many Americans said before Pearl Harbor about the war then ongoing in Europe.

In reality, it *can* come here. I'm not predicting that it *will*; I'm saying the likelihood—the danger—exists. And as long as the present policies of our government continue, especially the policies of the right-wing Stone Age faction inside the Congress, the right-wing policies of Vice President Al Gore and of Madeleine Albright, a Brzezinski associate. As long as these policies on the



*A war breaking out in the North Caucasus region of southern Russia, or elsewhere in Asia, could rapidly lead to general thermonuclear war, LaRouche warned in the 1999 video, "Storm Over Asia."*

United States' part continue, the danger of war is growing.

It's not immediate, not tomorrow, and not the day after tomorrow. But wars come on like that: you get to a point of no return, there's still no war. Then, somewhere down the line, maybe a couple of years later, the war actually breaks out.

And war is breaking out all over the world now; not only in the Balkans, as we saw recently, not only in an insane bombing attack on Saddam, for no reason whatsoever—the continued war against Iraq. Now the crazy intervention in Timor, which can lead to chaos in that region of the world. War is breaking out in small wars, all over the world.

If that process continues under present conditions, we are headed in the direction of something terrible—possibly even a nuclear war. Americans have to wake up and realize that problem.

Think back to New York in the old days. We once had a man who sold merchandise cheaply with radio ads. He called himself "Crazy Eddie." And he used to say "my policies are insane." Crazy Eddie's policies and way of thinking, apparently have been picked up by Al Gore, and some people in the Defense Department and elsewhere in the United States. We've got to get the "Crazy Eddie policies" out of the United States government.

As I shall indicate, these—the problems we face are deadly ones, but they're problems which can be solved....