

# JANUSIAN:THINKING

analysis assessment intelligence

13 July 2005

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**Janusian Intelligence: Working Document**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup> 2005: 1600hrs**

**London Terror Attacks – July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005**

**Summary**

- **It is now known that the 3 underground explosions occurred within 50 seconds of each other – the bus bomb remains something of an anomaly**
- **It is widely believed that suicide bombers carried out the attacks**
- **4 British men believed to be the bombers have been identified – all were from West Yorkshire**
- **The identity of the fourth man has not yet been disclosed**
- **One arrest has been made in Leeds – the man, believed to be a relative of one of the bombers, is being questioned at Paddington Green**
- **Explosive materials have been found at an address in Leeds**
- **Property belonging to 3 of the men has been found at the sites of the bus bomb, the Aldgate/Liverpool Street explosion and the Edgware Road explosion**
- **The homes of 3 of the 4 men have been searched in Leeds**
- **2 cars found in the railway station car park in Luton – one containing explosives – are being investigated**
- **The exact number of fatalities is still unknown – bodies continue to be identified at the site of the Russell Sq/King's Cross underground explosion**

**Key Judgements**

- **Further attacks:** The possibility of further attacks has at no stage been ruled out and even if all 4 of the bombers died on Friday similar cells may be in existence and prepared to carry out analogous operations. These may be in London, another British city or indeed another major city in Europe. If al-Qaeda (AQ) is involved, their operations typically include second wave attacks – following the Madrid bombings attacks planned on the AVE were intercepted. However, as the criminal investigation progresses (see below) it will become increasingly difficult for potential attackers to operate and remain under the radar of the security services – this is particularly true in London.
- **British suicide bombers:** Having dealt with the terrorist threat posed by the IRA for many years, the emergence of British born suicide bombers would mark the realisation of 2 things that the security services feared the most. We may now be dealing with a very different threat and one which is very difficult to mitigate and defend against. The future of Britain's security measures will need to be re-assessed – inevitably igniting the conflict between civil liberties and security. The motivations of such individuals will need to be carefully studied and addressed if the problem is to be dealt with effectively in future.
- **Outside help:** It is highly likely that someone else was involved, guiding and instructing the bombers – themselves a cell formed for the purpose of these attacks alone. The level of planning and preparation that will have been necessary in launching simultaneous citywide strikes is implicit of sophisticated expertise. The

devices employed – making use of high explosives – will have been far less crude than originally suspected.

- **Al-Qaeda involvement:** AQ involvement is deeply suspected – all the indications are that the organisation is behind the attacks: a co-ordinated series of attacks using multiple people; the use of conventional explosives; the hitting of a soft target; the identification of a target that when hit at a certain time will impact several sectors, in this case transport, finance, tourism; well planned strategic timing, this time in coincidence with the G8 summit; the absence of concrete intelligence in the lead-up to the attack and the lack of warning; the intention to cause mass casualties, thus causing maximum psychological dislocation and terror. AQ operations also make use of an external overseer – if the outside help strongly suspected in the attacks is proved, they further fit the profile of an al-Qaeda operation.
- **Backlash against British Muslims:** A backlash against British Muslims is inevitable – indeed is already being felt – and the unity of the British nation will now be severely tested. Reprisals against Muslims will in turn exacerbate deeper divisions in British society, divisions that can only help to radicalise the potential attackers of the future.
- **The bus bomb anomaly:** The incidence of the bus bomb remains out of sync with the other attacks given their careful simultaneity. It is probable that the device was in fact intended for detonation either on the Northern or Victoria underground lines. Delayed for some reason, the bomb's handler would then have been caught up in the disruptions that followed the other blasts. With tube lines closed he took the bus upon which the explosion took place. Whether or not he meant for the device to detonate then remains unknown. His position on the bus – at the back of the top deck where he would not cause maximum casualties – raises further questions. It could of course be indicative of his youth and inexperience.

### **Tactical Update**

#### **All explosions now strongly believed to be suicide bombs – at least 3 of which were borne by British men of Pakistani origin:**

- Shehzah Tanweer – 22 – from Leeds
- Mohammed Sadique Khan – 30 – from Dewsbury
- Hasib Hussain – 19 – from Leeds

The men were caught on CCTV at King's Cross station shortly before the attacks – they were all carrying rucksacks. It is currently believed that they hired the cars found at Luton, driving down from West Yorkshire before boarding a Thameslink train to take them to King's Cross. Once in London, they dispersed on their separate missions:

**Liverpool Street/Aldgate: Shehzad Tanweer:** c0851hrs – Circle Line train travelling towards Aldgate Station. The bomb detonated approximately 100m into the tunnel. Around 10lbs of high explosives were detonated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> carriage. 700-900 people were on the train – at least 7 were killed with more than 100 injured.

**Russell Sq/King's Cross: Unidentified:** c0851hrs – Piccadilly Line train travelling southbound from King's Cross Station to Russell Sq. This explosion was responsible for killing the highest number of passengers – bodies continue to be uncovered. We estimate that approximately 40-45 people may have lost their lives in this explosion. Around 10lbs of high explosives were detonated in the 1<sup>st</sup> carriage, at the 1<sup>st</sup> set of double doors. Again, 700-900 people were on the train.

**Edgware Road: Mohammed Sadique Khan:** c0851hrs – Hammersmith and City Line travelling from Edgware Road towards Paddington Station. The bomb exploded about 100m into the tunnel as the train passed other trains, blasting a hole in a wall and damaging at

least one and possibly two other trains. Around 10lbs of high explosives were detonated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> carriage, at the 1<sup>st</sup> set of double doors. Once more the train carried 700-900 passengers – at least 7 were killed.

**Explosion 4: (Anomaly) Hasib Hussain:** 0947hrs – The no. 30 double-decker bus at the junction of Tavistock Square and Upper Woburn Square, outside the British Medical Association building. Travelling from Hackney to Marble Arch, the bus had been diverted from its usual route. The bomb exploded at the back of the upper deck blowing the roof off. Around 10lbs of high explosives were contained in the device. At least 13 people were killed on a bus designed to carry 106 passengers and the driver.

### **Criminal Investigation: Progress and Trajectory**

The criminal investigation underway in the wake of the attacks is perhaps the most complex terror investigation ever conducted in the UK. Hundreds of hours of CCTV footage are being examined; mobile and satellite telephone calls traced and financial records searched for any possible leads.

Thus far, hundreds of round the clock police hours have produced the four suspected bombers, all shown convening at King's Cross station a short time before the 8:50 detonations. Bombers include Hasib Hussain, 19, Shehzad Tanweer, 22, and Mohammed Sadique Khan, 30. The police have yet to disclose the identity of the fourth bomber.

With this information in hand, fervent investigation is likely to target a new set of questions:

**How were these operatives able to carry out such a complex mission without being detected by authorities?** An operation with the high level of coordination of the 7/7 attacks was likely orchestrated by a central leader, probably an AQ operative sent into the country to recruit locals to the cause. Once in the UK, this AQ operative would have imparted his detailed knowledge of bomb making, likely learned in an Afghanistan camp, to his recruits.

**Why use unskilled local operatives?** Assembling a bomber team of locals enables an AQ contact to create a group of operatives lacking criminal records, not yet on the radar of the crime enforcement establishment. Of note is the evolution of AQ strategy displayed here: with increased vigilance and training camp crackdowns, suicide bombing, once the main modus operandi of AQ operatives themselves, has been replaced by recruitment of locals to suicide missions. This new tactic frees up highly trained AQ operatives to move between attack sites, recruiting new locals to their deadly missions. The hunt is now on for this AQ mastermind.

**What are the characteristics of an AQ point man?** The central operative possibly responsible for recruiting, training, and orchestrating Thursday's bombing was likely trained in an AQ camp. He would have arrived in the UK a knowledgeable bomb maker, trained in the art of evading the authorities by keeping a low profile. In the country for years, months, or arriving just weeks before the attack, he likely left the UK immediately before the bomb blasts, so as to ensure escape. In the coming weeks police are certain to dedicate time and resources to locating this attack coordinator. They will aim to apprehend him wherever he is found, or at the very least to positively identify his point of departure and primary destination.

### **Summary of Arab and Iranian media responses to the London attacks**

This summary aims at giving a general overview of some of the reactions to the London bombings that have been published in Arab and Iranian press.

- Multiple Arab media sources describe how Britain has become a haven for Islamists due to its handling of extremists. They criticise Britain's reckless notions of freedom of speech and opinion, instead advocating "responsible freedom" which would restrict the radicalism that is "spreading like a plague". They feel that last Thursday's attacks were a consequence of British "blind generosity" which has allowed extremism to spread like wildfire; extremism, they point out, is a highly contagious disease. (Al-Hayat, 13<sup>th</sup> July; al-Watan, 10<sup>th</sup> July; al-Jazeera, 10<sup>th</sup> July; al-Arabiya TV, 8<sup>th</sup> July; al-Sharq al-Awsat, 8<sup>th</sup> July)
- Other papers feel the British have brought this upon themselves for other reasons: "war is war, and terror is one of its means". Osama Bin Laden has previously warned that "if you bomb our cities, we bomb yours". Last Thursday's attacks were a direct enactment of this threat, which could have been avoided, had British forces been withdrawn from Iraq. (al-Quds al-Arabi, 8<sup>th</sup> July)
- Multiple papers report the detrimental effects of the attacks on Muslims and Arabs around the world who have suffered significantly as a result of these attacks. Supposed Islamist terrorists have in fact lost all faith, they assert: though they "decorate their writings with Quranic verses", their true religion is that of murder. They are not "Islamic terrorists"; they are simply criminals and murderers who have hijacked Islam to cover for their terrorism and crime. Whole segments of Muslim society are now being ostracised due to the crimes of a few, despite the fact that Islam prohibits acts of terror. (Al-Hayat, 9<sup>th</sup> July; al-Sharq al-Awsat, 9<sup>th</sup> July; al-Sharq al-Awsat, 8<sup>th</sup> July; Muslim Brotherhood website, 7<sup>th</sup> July)
- Though the London attacks occurred at a significant high in British sentiment [when they were hosting the G8 conference, held the EU presidency and had won the Olympic bid] events have benefited rather than harmed Tony Blair's image. They clearly demonstrated that he was not "scaremongering" when he warned of imminent terrorist attacks. Thus the British population have renewed confidence in a leader who they previously doubted over the Iraq war and the terrorists have failed if their mission was to bring about political change. (al-Sharq al-Awsat, 9<sup>th</sup> July)
- Other papers expressed the opposite vision: the attacks were a slap in the face to Blair at the height of his glory. "The British Prime Minister wanted to turn eyes away from the biggest setback in his political life, that is the war in Iraq, but the explosions came to undermine all his achievements and plans and send him back to square one, the terrorism square". Despite the \$250 billion spent on the war, in addition to the killing of some 2,000 British soldiers and 100,000 Iraqi citizens, terrorism persists, thus highlighting Blair's failure. (al-Quds al-Arabi, 8<sup>th</sup> July)
- One Iranian source sees the US and Israel as "Mother" and "Father" of AQ, a thought which is echoed by the Muslim Brotherhood. While both offer their sincerest condolences, they stress that the terrorist organisation is "the illegitimate child" of these powers, who created it for their benefit in past decades. (Jomhuri-ye Eslami, 9<sup>th</sup> July; Muslim Brotherhood website)
- More radical Iranian sources accuse AQ of being an instrument of US foreign policy: "there is no doubt that this group is controlled by America. America uses AQ everywhere and at all times to further its own aims - even for manipulating the minds of the British people in an attempt to convince them to abandon their opposition to

the UK government's support for America". (Jomhuri-ye Eslami, 9<sup>th</sup> July; Muslim Brotherhood website, 7<sup>th</sup> July)

- A steep decline in the number of Arab visitors to the UK has been reported. Al-Arabiya television station cited one Saudi Arabian airline losing half of its business to the UK and Europe since the London attacks. Travellers had instead exchanged their tickets for other destinations. Routes that have benefited have been those to the UAE, Egypt, Syria, Morocco and other South East Asian countries. It should be noted that all of these countries have significant Muslim majorities. (al-Arabiya TV, 13<sup>th</sup> July)

### **Source descriptions**

Al-Arabiya Television – Pan-Arab satellite television channel

Al-Hayat – Pan-Arab daily headquartered in London

Al-Jazeera – Saudi Arabian daily (wholly independent of the TV channel of the same name)

Jomhuri-ye Eslami – conservative Persian-language daily

Al-Quds al-Arabi – Pan-Arab daily headquartered in London

Al-Sharq al-Awsat – Pan-Arab daily headquartered in London

Teshreen – Syrian government daily

Al-Watan – popular Saudi Arabian daily