



Why is British intelligence letting loose convicted terrorists?

By Elisa Barwick

British radical Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary, jailed in 2016 for recruiting to the terrorist Islamic State (ISIS or IS), will be released from prison next month after serving only half of his absurdly short five-and-a-half-year sentence. Since the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack in the USA, 500 terrorists have been freed from UK prisons, including some 23 followers of Choudary. Another five of his devotees will come up for parole over the next year. According to a report by the Henry Jackson Society, a convicted terrorist was released nearly every week in March 2017-March 2018.

British Minister for Prisons Rory Stewart has said that Choudary, whom the UK Metropolitan Police have linked to 15 terrorist attacks since 9/11, is still “genuinely dangerous” and has “a deeply pernicious, destabilising influence”, but according to the 11 September *Telegraph* the government claims to be powerless to prevent his release!

Really? For all the new anti-terror and surveillance powers, in which Britain leads the world, they don't have the power to keep a terrorist procurer imprisoned? Are British security agencies protecting terrorists? The answer is no—it's far worse. As documented in the CEC pamphlet *Stop-MI5/MI6-run Terrorism* (June 2017), they are *running them*.

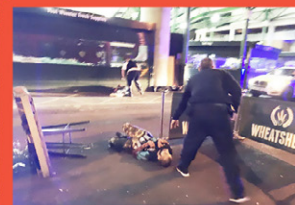
This news service has also exposed the Anglo-Saudi arms-for-oil barter deal known as al-Yamamah, which built up a secret slush fund to finance terrorism, and the explicit Saudi role in facilitating the 9/11 attacks (box, page 11).

The British secret services have acted to propagate terrorist networks for two reasons. One is to achieve the British government's goal of regime-change in countries like Libya and Syria. The evidence points to the domestic agency MI5 actively recruiting terrorists from among the army of jihadists it has cultivated in the UK, allowing them to travel freely between those countries and Britain. Salman Abedi, the suicide bomber who killed 22 and injured 139 people leaving a Manchester Arena concert on 22 May 2017, was a member of a Manchester-based terrorist cell, whose travel to Libya to fight for the overthrow of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi had been assisted by MI5. Back in 1995, the foreign intelligence agency MI6 had hired the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) to kill Qaddafi; this was an affiliate of al-Qaeda formed by Libyans fighting in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union, backed by the Anglo-Americans courtesy of the slush fund generated by the al-Yamamah arms deal. Abedi's father was a member.

The second, strategically crucial purpose of the promotion and protection of terror networks by British official agencies is to justify the establishment of domestic police states—in the UK itself, and in all of its Five Eyes intelligence allies: the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. When the next general financial crisis inevitably hits, which will be far worse than the events of 2008, the City of London power nexus will face massive opposition from the population. Threatened with losing their power, the financiers, with their secret service colleagues and allies, want to annihilate civil rights and simply rule by dictate.

In the UK proper, the process of building police-state capabilities is already far advanced. When the *Investigatory*

Stop MI5/MI6-run Terrorism!



Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

The cover of this 2017 CEC pamphlet depicts Prince Charles at the top of the Crown-sponsored apparatus that has promoted and protected terrorism in the UK. As a guest in Saudi Arabia, Charles is dressed for a sword dance with his terror-funding hosts. Charles is the official Patron of the MI5 and MI6 intelligence agencies, as well as the communications office GCHQ. MI5 and MI6 have repeatedly been exposed as supervising top terror trainers, and their operatives, within the UK, including former Finsbury Park Mosque preacher Abu Hamza—a self-described MI5 agent—and Anjem Choudary, the al-Muhajiroun leader who is about to be released from prison. The pamphlet may be downloaded at <http://cecaust.com.au/terror/MI5-MI6Terror.pdf>.

Powers Act (nicknamed “Snoopers’ Charter”) was passed in November 2016, the famous American whistleblower Edward Snowden, who had worked in the US National Security Agency (NSA), tweeted: “The UK has just legalised the most extreme surveillance in the history of western democracy. It goes further than many autocracies.” The *Act* legalised bulk data collection that had been going on unlawfully for years.

The Choudary nexus

Last year there were five major terrorist attacks in the UK: the 22 March Westminster Bridge vehicle attack, which killed four people; the Manchester Arena bombing; the 3 June London Bridge attack by vehicle and knives, killing eight; the van that hit pedestrians near Finsbury Park Mosque in north London on 19 June; and the improvised bomb that went off on a London Underground train on 15

September. Choudary's network intersects the extremist circles behind all of these attacks. Two of the three London Bridge terrorists were followers of Choudary, and Choudary regularly preached in Luton, the home town of the Westminster Bridge terrorist, Khalid Masood. Two Choudary supporters beheaded British Army soldier Lee Rigby in broad daylight on a London street in 2013. In 2005, a former detective with the anti-terror squad, David Videcette, said, "Every plot I ever researched, someone in it was linked to Choudary."

Choudary was a leader of al-Muhajiroun, a pro-terrorist organisation banned in 2005, but which continued to operate under different names. Its founder had boasted in 1998 that it operated under a "covenant" of security with MI5. In 2005 a Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) Briefing Paper, "Security, Terrorism and the UK", affirmed that "London was increasingly being used as a base by individuals involved in promoting, funding and planning terrorism", but that "they were left to continue their activities with relative impunity" so long as they did not plan attacks inside the UK. Choudary's al-Muhajiroun threatened to break the covenant after the 9/11 attack, as the British government prepared tougher anti-terror laws. The organisation spoke openly about the existence of the deal: "For the moment, Muslims in the UK have a covenant of security which prevents them from attacking the lives and wealth of anyone here". Al-Muhajiroun need not have worried about a crackdown. As journalist and terrorism expert Nafeez Ahmed wrote in 2006, "The British state shows no interest in using its existing legal powers to neutralise terrorist networks in Britain, despite open threats of a new wave of terrorist attacks."

In the 21st century, the pattern of individuals protected and/or controlled by MI5 or MI6 committing terrorism began with the deadly "7/7" London subway bombings of 7 July 2005, in which 52 people were killed and more than 700 injured. Its alleged mastermind, Haroon Rashid Aswat, has been described by Nafeez Ahmed as "a 'double agent' working for MI6 as an informant on al-Qaeda operations, while still being an active al-Qaeda operative." He, like the perpetrators of later attacks from Choudary's networks, should have been high on any competent watch list.

MI5 repeatedly intervened to keep Choudary in action. A Met counter-terrorism officer told the *Telegraph* in 2016 under the headline "MI5 stopped Scotland Yard taking Choudary down, sources claim", that "I am gobsmacked that we allowed him to carry on as long as long as he did. He was up to his neck in it but the police can't do full investigations on people if the security service say they are working on a really big job, because they have the priority. That is what they did constantly."

Where is GCHQ?

MI5, MI6, and the politicians protecting them argue that terrorists are bound to "slip through the net" as Abedi did, because the security agencies lack manpower and resources to monitor the 3,000 people on their "watch list" and an additional 20,000 "people of concern".

But where is the UK's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in this picture? GCHQ and its US sister agency, the NSA, presently monitor every single phone and computer in the UK and the USA, as former top NSA analysts Snowden and William Binney have documented. The 23,000 people to be watched or "of concern" for terrorism, and hundreds of thousands more, could be—and obviously are—monitored by these agencies, along with the rest of the population.

In testimony before the UK Parliament in 2016 on the pending surveillance law, the *Investigatory Powers Act*, Binney gave his expert opinion as the NSA's former top technical specialist, that GCHQ

unquestionably had all the technical capability needed to monitor all of the watched individuals in real time. Binney himself had designed a program for the NSA called Thin Thread, which could conduct such monitoring while excluding the vast majority of the population from the surveillance. In the film *A Good American*, Binney had stated that "Thin Thread is a program that absolutely would have prevented 9/11", had it been used to target terrorists. After 9/11, Binney had resigned from the NSA in disgust over the agency's conducting mass surveillance of the public instead.



The headline of the 21 August 2016 *Telegraph* report that MI5 protected terrorist Anjem Choudary.

Target: Corbyn?

What then is the purpose of the ever more powerful anti-terrorism laws, if it is not to allay terrorism? The increased threat of terrorism is a pretext for greater police state powers in a period of oncoming financial crisis with an increasingly disaffected population. The greatest threat to the London financial establishment in that context is a new Labour Prime Minister, Jeremy Corbyn, with his vow to return finance to the service of the people, and to end regime-change wars abroad and weapons sales to Saudi Arabia. In June 2017, in the wake of the London Bridge terror attack, Corbyn said that the UK needed to have "difficult conversations" with Saudi Arabia about its funding of Islamist extremism. Of course, any serious such investigation will lead straight to the Saudi royals' bosom buddies in the apparatus of the British Crown, starting with Prince Charles. Author Mark Hollingsworth documented in his 2005 book *Saudi Babylon*, that "Prince Charles's relationships with prominent House of Saud members have created serious problems and obstacles to UK agencies investigating claims of Saudi financing of international terrorism".

The expansion of terrorist action creates an environment in which calls for Corbyn's ouster, and even his assassination, can gain traction, and provides plausibility for any attack against him that materialises. Those calls have included an unnamed "senior serving general" cited in the 20 September 2015 *Times*, threatening Corbyn with a coup if he ever came to power; a *Sun* columnist in May 2017 announcing he would love to see headlines in the press announcing "Jeremy Corbyn knifed by asylum seeker"; and comments in the 7 June 2017 *Telegraph* by former MI6 director Richard Dearlove under the headline, "Jeremy Corbyn is a danger to this nation". Most importantly came the ominous report from a security source (*Mail on Sunday*, 28 May 2017), that the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had alerted MI5 in January 2017 to Manchester Arena bomber Salman Abedi's membership in a gang "that was plotting an attack in the UK", and that "It was thought at the time that Abedi was planning to assassinate a

political figure.” MI5 took a look at Abedi, but he then unaccountably “slipped down the pecking order of targets”, as the *Mail on Sunday* put it, despite being reported to MI5 multiple times. (“Behind the Royal Navy rescue scandal: ‘Islamic’ terrorism is a tool of British policy”, AAS, 8 Aug. 2018)

The latest phase of the Get Corbyn campaign has taken the form of a shambolic crusade against alleged “anti-Semitism” within the Labour Party, and on the part of Corbyn himself. Following allegations that the advocacy outfit, Campaign Against Anti-Semitism, incited death threats against Corbyn, the Metropolitan police launched an investigation into the threats, as did the Charity Commission, a government department which oversees charities. The group issued a petition on 28 August, calling Corbyn an anti-Semite and demanding he “resign or be made to stand down”. Earlier in the year a far-right extremist was jailed after he threatened to kill Corbyn.

Ed Husain in the 16 September *Sunday Telegraph* even had the gall to lay blame for the expansion of terrorism at Corbyn’s feet, though Corbyn and Labour Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell have consistently opposed the regime-change wars in Iraq, Libya and Syria which depended upon training, funding and arming known terrorists, many from the UK. Husain is an author who had former roles at the New York Council of Foreign Relations, the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, and the drug-money-laundering and terror-financing bank HSBC. He co-founded the Quilliam Foundation. Quilliam is the supposedly anti-terrorist think tank headed by Noman Benotman, a former senior member of the al-Qaeda-origin LIFG and a sometime adviser to ex-PM Blair. It is stacked with “former” terrorists who have been deployed by MI6. As British investigative journalist Nafeez Mosaddeq reported in a February 2015 article in *MiddleEastEye.net*, “The Circus: How British Intelligence Primed Both sides of the Terror War”, “Jihadi John [the Brit seen in videoed beheadings in 2014-15] was able to join IS for one simple reason: from Quilliam to al-Muhajiroun, Britain’s loudest extremists have been groomed by the security services.”

Husain points to the seriousness of the terrorist threat, with the likes of Choudary back on the streets and terrorists dislodged from Syria disseminating around the globe.



Terrorist recruiter Anjem Choudary is in the foreground of this video grab. Circled at back right is suspected ISIS executioner Siddhartha Dhar, a member of the al-Muhajiroun group, two other members of which were among the perpetrators of the June 2017 vehicle and knife attack at London Bridge. Photo: Screenshot

In August of this year, ISIS head Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced, “One operation in the West is better than a thousand in the Middle East”. Husain blames “our liberal order” for preventing a clamp-down on terrorism. He falsely places Corbyn in Choudary’s camp because of his abhorrence of imperialism, attacks on the current system of capitalism, and advocacy of Palestinian rights. Warped propaganda like Husain’s plays into the anti-Corbyn frenzy promoted by the British establishment.

The security service-directed release of terrorists must be stopped. Chris Phillips, former head of the National Counter Terrorism Security Office, told the *Sunday Telegraph* on 16 September: “In the 17 years since 9/11 we have seen a load of people convicted for terrorism offences. Now we are starting to see some serious ones coming out. ... If you’re going to release hardened terrorists then you have to expect chaos.”

Pay attention to government forecasts of new acts of terror, such as Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson’s warning, reported in the *Times* of 3 September, about new “Manchester-style attacks”, arising from direct links between ISIS in Afghanistan and terrorist groups in the UK.

Unless the MI5/MI6/GCHQ role in fostering and allowing terrorism is exposed, be prepared for more terror attacks, which will intersect the growing social unrest from worsening economic conditions—conditions that only Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour Party is currently addressing.

Further reading

The Citizens Electoral Council of Australia has insistently put the key issues regarding the true sponsorship of international terrorism on the table, in a series of media releases, as well as in pamphlets. They are all available at cecaust.com.au:

- “Prince Charles and Saudi-backed terrorism: Demand answers!”, media release, 15 Nov. 2015;
- “To stop a major terrorist attack in Britain: Re-open the Serious Fraud Office’s al-Yamamah investigation!”, media release, 5 May 2016;
- *To Stop a Near-term Terror Attack, Read the ‘28 Pages’!*, pamphlet, August 2016. In all of these publications, we warned that such attacks would not only continue, but would inevitably escalate unless Charles and his Saudi cronies were brought to book. The pamphlet concluded with the section “We Can End This Era

of Terrorism and War”, a list of needed steps including:

- Force the reopening of the UK Serious Fraud Office investigation of al-Yamamah, the Anglo-Saudi oil-for-arms deal;
- A Parliamentary commission in the UK should investigate the al-Yamamah connection to the 9/11 attacks in the USA in 2001;
- Prince Charles must be called to testify before the new House of Commons hearings, in view of his longstanding close connections with Saudi figures involved in promoting terrorism.
 - “The Manchester Terror Attack: the role of Prince Charles”, media release, 2 June 2017;
 - *Stop MI5/MI6-run Terrorism!*, pamphlet, June 2017;
 - “The mortal threat to Jeremy Corbyn”, media release, 4 July 2017.