

The CPS, HM Constabulary and Islamic Radicalism – 2009/2011

During the period 2009 to 2011, the UK police and security services routinely allowed groups such as the Muslim Safety Forum (MSF, and its representatives) to 'advise' them on ways to counter domestic extremism and terrorism.¹ And they did so, despite concerns raised, regarding reported links to extreme Islamist movements (such as the ISLAMIC FORUM OF EUROPE, and HIZB UT-TAHRIR).²

Previously, the main contact, a trustee of the MSF, was given as AZAD ALI.³ Notably, AZAD ALI had served as a member of HM Treasury, the Metropolitan Police Strategic Stop and Search Committee, the Police Use of Firearms Group, the IPCC Community Advisory Group – and on a Crown Prosecution Service 'Community Involvement Panel', chaired by the then director of the CPS counter-terrorism division.^{4 5 6} At that time the Head of the CPS was Sir KEIR STARMER (as DPP).

In November 2009, in an article for The Sunday Times, the journalist DAVID LEPPARD wrote of the support that AZAD ALI had reportedly expressed for the extremist, Islamic HIZB UT-TAHRIR.⁷ And in August 2013 the journalist ANDREW GILLIGAN, in an article for The Telegraph, wrote: *"Mr [Azad] Ali is community affairs coordinator of the Islamic Forum of Europe, a Muslim supremacist group dedicated to changing 'the very infrastructure of society, its institutions, its culture, its political order and its creed from ignorance to Islam'. Mr Ali has written on his blog of his 'love' for Anwar al-Awlaki, the al-Qaeda cleric closely linked to many terrorist plots, including the September 11 attacks, and used to attend talks by Abu Qatada, the extremist cleric whom Britain is seeking to deport. He has described al-Qaeda as a 'myth and denied that the Mumbai attacks were terrorism.'"*^{8 9}

It is reported that initial contacts between Mr. AZAD ALI, and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Commissioner Sir IAN BLAIR, were made as early as December 2006. The outcomes of such contacts included an agreement for regular (monthly) meetings between representatives of the MSF and the MPS – and that the MPS (presumably Counter Terrorism Command) would provide the MFS (AZAD ALI) with sensitive information concerning forthcoming counter-terrorism raids.¹⁰

¹ See minutes of the meeting: 'Association of Chief Police Officers, National Co-ordinator PROTECT and PREPARE, National Accountability Board', Chaired by Mr. John Donlon, for the 3rd May 2011

² 'Police Muslim Forum Headed by Islamic Extremist', Andrew Gilligan, Daily Telegraph, 24th July 2010

³ From a summary of the Muslim Safety Forum details, downloaded from the Charity Commission website (as Registered Charity N^o 1121722) on the 14th September 2013.

⁴ 'Choosing Our Friends Wisely – Criteria For Engagement With Muslim Groups', by Shiraz Maher and Martyn Frampton, Policy Exchange, 2009

⁵ 'Chief Prosecutor Advised By A Radical', by David Leppard, The Sunday Times, 1st November 2009

⁶ 'Civil Servant "Backed Fanatic's Call To Kill Our Troops In Iraq', by Julie Moulton, The Daily Mail, 19th January 2009

⁷ 'Chief Prosecutor Advised By A Radical', by David Leppard, The Sunday Times, 1st November 2009

⁸ 'Anti-Fascists Fuel The Fire of Hate', Andrew Gilligan, The Telegraph, 15th June 2013, source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/andrew-gilligan/10122496/Anti-fascists-fuel-the-fire-of-hate.html>

⁹ 'Ken Livingstone's Anti_fascist Group Appointed Fascist As Vice-Chair', by Andrew Gilligan, 29th February 2012, source: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/andrewgilligan/100140248/ken-livingstones-anti-fascist-group-appoints-fascist-as-vice-chair/>

¹⁰ 'Sir Ian Blair's Deal With Islamic Radical', by Andrew Gilligan, The Daily Telegraph, 1st March 2010, source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/7339604/Sir-Ian-Blairs-deal-with-Islamic-radical.html>

At an ACPO-hosted meeting of the National Accountability Board (note: the NAB/CT was created to advise the Government on counter-terrorism operational procedures), held in April 2010, a decision was taken to include a MSF representative as a NAB/CT board member.¹¹ Curiously, both the list of those attending that meeting and the identity of the person who recommended (by email to the NAB/CT) that the MSF should be invited, were *post-priori* redacted from the meeting minutes. This is most significant – NAB/CT meetings were not normally subjected to such concealments.

It is understood that in the next NAB/CT meeting, in May 2011, the MSF was represented by AZAD ALI. However, once again, the minutes of that meeting were *post-priori* redacted – including most of the names of the people attending the meeting, and substantial parts of the content.¹²

Given these activities within the NAB/CT, it is interesting to note that at the following meeting in May 2012 the MSF was no longer being invited to participate. Included in the minutes is the rather cryptic comment that: “*Mr. DONLON [the NAB/CT Chairman] then went on to explain the reasons why the MSF would no longer be represented on the Schedule 7 National Accountability Board (NAB)*”.¹³ However it appears the general public is still not allowed to know those reasons – nor who made that decision.


END

¹¹ ‘Minutes’, National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE, National Accountability Board meeting, ACPO Secretariat, 10 Victoria Street, London, 15th April 2010

¹² ‘Minutes’, National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE, National Accountability Board meeting, ACPO Secretariat, 10 Victoria Street, London, 3rd May 2011

¹³ ‘Minutes’, National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE, National Accountability Board meeting, ACPO Secretariat, 10 Victoria Street, London, 29th May 2012. See, in particular, section 1.1, page 2

Minutes of the ACPO NAB/CT Meeting, May 2011

 ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS	
National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE	
Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000	
National Accountability Board (NAB)	
3rd May 2011 (1-3 pm)	
1st Floor Conference Room 2 10 Victoria Street London SW1H 0NN.	
MINUTES	
Attendees:	
Chair: Mr John DONLON National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE	
Detective Superintendent Pete McGowan (Deputy National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE)	[REDACTED] (NPIA Stop & Search Community Panel)
[REDACTED] (Home Office – OSCT)	Ms Rozila Kana (ACPO PREVENT)
[REDACTED] (National Association of Muslim Police)	Inspector Andrew Shaddock (ACPO Lead for Stop & Search)
[REDACTED] (Muslim Safety Forum)	Detective Inspector Ceri Rees (Office of the National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE)
[REDACTED] (Independent Police Complaints Commission – IPCC)	Detective Sergeant Mike Dixon (Office of the National Co-ordinator PROTECT & PREPARE)
[REDACTED] (Islamic Human Rights Commission)	Ms Shirani Gunawardena (Metropolitan Police Authority)

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Counter Terrorism (CT) operational procedures with members of the National Accountability Board (NAB). The ACPO host redacted many of the names of NAB members attending the meeting. However, based on information accessible to the author, it is understood that the representative for the Muslim Safety Forum was Mr AZAD ALI – who had also worked in an advisory capacity to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) under Sir KEIR STARMER.

It was at around this time that newspaper reports began appearing linking AZAD ALI to various radical Islamic groups. This included Muslim supremacist groups seeking the Jihadist ISLAMIFICATION of all Europe – such as THE ISLAMIC FORUM OF EUROPE and HIZB UT-TAHRIR.