

Both London and Manchester Terrorists Linked to UK Covert Operations in Syria and Libya

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*The Telegraph reports that London attacker **Rachid Redouane** fought in the 2011 British/NATO war against Qaddafi – as did **Salman Abedi**, the Manchester bomber – and joined a militia which went on to send jihadist fighters to Syria. In Libya, he is believed to have fought with the **Liwa al Ummah** unit.[1]*

The **Liwa al Ummah** was formed by a deputy of **Abdul Hakim Belhaj**, the former emir of the al Qaeda-linked **Libyan Islamic Fighting Group**. In 2012, the Liwa al Ummah in Syria merged with the **Free Syrian Army (FSA)**[2], which was formed in August 2011 by army deserters based in Turkey[3] whose aim was to bring down Assad.

In Syria, the **Liwa al Ummah** was often referred to as an 'FSA unit'[4] and sometimes teamed up with **al-Nusra**, al Qaeda's official branch in Syria. [5]

The **UK** has been reported as covertly supporting al-Nusra in Syria.[6] Moreover, the UK backed and supplied the FSA. In February 2012 Britain pledged to send advanced communications equipment to the FSA to help coordinate its forces.[7] In August 2012, it was reported that British authorities “know about and approve 100%” intelligence from their Cyprus military bases being passed through Turkey to the rebel troops of the FSA.[8] In August 2013, the UK announced £1m support to the FSA in form of communication and other equipment.[9]

The FSA has been covertly armed by the **US and Gulf states**[10] and trained by **Turkey**[11] – all as part of the UK-backed covert operation to oust Assad which began in 2011.

There is evidence to suggest that the anti-Qaddafi fighters who fought on Britain's side to oust Qaddafi in 2011 – for which the British authorities allowed an 'open door' for them to travel from the UK to Libya – then simply moved on to Syria.

In December 2011, it was reported that “with explicit consent from Transitional National Council (TNC) chairman” (supported by the UK and NATO) “600 highly motivated troops fresh from toppling the Gaddafi regime” were shipped to Syria to fight alongside the FSA. “The trigger-happy Libyans have access to a wealth of weapons plundered from the Gaddafi's regimes military depots or gently 'donated' by NATO and Qatar”. [12]

Notes

[1]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/06/london-attacker-rachid-redouane-refused-uk-asylum-2009/>

[2] http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/03/al_nusrah_front_free_1.php

[3] <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24403003>

[4] http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/03/al_nusrah_front_free_1.php

[5] http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/03/al_nusrah_front_free_1.php

[6]

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/01/trial-swedish-man-accused-terrorism-offences-collapse-bberlin-gildo>

[7] <http://syrianfreedomls.tumblr.com/post/17225970100/well-help-rebels-overthrow-syrian-murderers>

[8] <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/syria-rebels-aided-british-intelligence-041638306.html>

[9]

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141127w0001.htm#14112778000328>

[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Syrian_Army#Arms_deliveries_from_U.S..2C_Turkey.2C_Qatar.2C_Saudi_Arabia.2C_others

[11] <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-19124810>

[12] http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/ML02Ak01.html

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