

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

By [Mark Curtis](#)

Global Research, June 08, 2017

[Mark Curtis](#) 7 June 2017

Region: [Europe](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#),  
[Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [NATO'S WAR ON LIBYA](#)

*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](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](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](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-berlin-gildo>

[7] <http://syrianfreedomis.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](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](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/ML02Ak01.html)

*Featured image: londoncriminalsolicitors.co.uk*

The original source of this article is [Mark Curtis](#)

Copyright © [Mark Curtis](#), [Mark Curtis](#), 2017

---

**[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)**

**[Become a Member of Global Research](#)**

Articles by: [Mark Curtis](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long as the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)