

New “Toothpaste Terrorism”... Used in the 1970’s by a CIA Asset

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Global Research, July 01, 2014

[FAIR](#) 27 June 2014

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

ABC World News ([6/24/14](#)) had a story this week about Al-Qaeda linked militants in Syria and Yemen teaming up “to develop a new generation of bombs” including “explosives-laden toothpaste tubes” that “could be smuggled aboard commercial planes.”

One problem with this story: Far from being a “new generation,” the toothpaste tube bomb has been around for almost four decades. In 1976, Cuban exiles reputedly led by Luis Posada Carriles used plastic explosives disguised in a tube of Colgate toothpaste to bring down [Cubana Flight 455](#), killing all 73 people aboard the civilian Cuban airliner.



Luis Posada Carriles in training at Fort Benning, Georgia, 1963. Too

Posada, a longtime [CIA asset](#), escaped after being arrested for the bombing in Venezuela, surfacing in El Salvador, where he [helped oversee](#) the Reagan administration’s illegal efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Since 2005, he’s been living in the United States, which [refuses to extradite him](#) to either Venezuela or Cuba.

Though it remains the deadliest act of [air terrorism](#) in the Western Hemisphere, Cubana Flight 455 is rarely brought up as a precedent for threats against air travelers. Perhaps that’s because corporate media like to maintain the [fiction](#) that terrorism is always something done by “them” against “us.”

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