

Communications planning - Operation Gamble (Lorraine Hennessy)



WEST MIDLANDS COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT

RESTRICTED



Operation Gamble 1 (executive action 31/1/07)

Synopsis:

Centred around plot to kidnap and murder a British Muslim soldier, plus the supply of equipment out to Pakistan for terrorist purposes.

Eighteen property searches.

Nine arrests/six charges/four guilty pleas/one found guilty/one acquittal.



Parviz Khan received a life sentence for his role in the plot.



Our force vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

TIMES ONLINE



“ More than 50% of employers complained that young people were inarticulate ” Harriet Sergeant

NEWS COMMENT BUSINESS MONEY SPORT LIFE & STYLE TRAVEL DRIVING ARTS & ENTS ARCHIVE OUR PAPERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

UK NEWS | WORLD NEWS | POLITICS | SCIENCE | ENVIRONMENT | WEATHER | TECH & WEB | VIDEO | PHOTO GALLERIES | TOPICS | MOBILE | RSS

Where am I? > Home > News > UK News > **Crime News**

Times Online SEARCH

from The Times
February 1, 2007

MY PROFILE | SHOP | JOBS | PROPERTY | CLASSIFIEDS

How al-Qaeda 'tried to bring Baghdad to Birmingham'

Elite police unit believed agitated plotters were about to carry out first kidnap and execution in the West

Russell Jenkins and Daniel McGrory

RECOMMEND ?

Not long back from his six-month tour in Iraq, the young Muslim soldier was puzzled when police called at his family home in Birmingham. What they had to say left him speechless with disbelief.

Officers described how a gang from his home town was allegedly plotting to abduct the soldier, aged in his 20s, and then force him in film to "apologise" for what he had done in Iraq.

After this propaganda coup, the gang intended to video themselves executing their hostage. His murder would be seen worldwide on the internet as a warning to other British Muslims regarded by the kidnappers as "traitors".

TIMES RECOMMENDS

- > Readers' land army plants a forest
- > UK plans first nuclear fusion power plant
- > MI5 may face new torture inquiry

SIGN UP

Free news bulletin

MOST READ | **MOST COMMENTED** | **MOST CURIOUS**

TODAY

- > More British passports found in hunt for...
- > Robots and bees to beat the Taliban
- > Yes, Prime Minister: the culture of fear at...
- > Punishment could push 'victimised' Ashley...

Mail Online

News

BT
Bringing it all together

BT Business Total Broadband

Al Qaeda was behind 'plot' to behead soldier

by STEPHEN WRIGHT and BEN TAYLOR

Last updated at 10:01 01 February 2007

Add to My Stories

A foiled plot to kidnap, torture and behead a British Muslim soldier was orchestrated by Al Qaeda, police sources have said.

Officers suspect the mastermind behind the appalling attempt to bring the horrors of Baghdad to the streets of Britain is a senior Al Qaeda terrorist with close links to Osama Bin Laden.

More here:

- A dilemma for the Forces
- The sick propaganda video
- The men they held at dawn
- Hostility and fear on the quiet streets
- 'Did this soldier trigger the plot?'

The alleged plan was to abduct a Muslim soldier, mirroring the murders of British hostages Ken Bigley and Margaret Hassan.

The victim would have been made to plead for his life to Tony Blair, denounce the war and ultimately be executed - all on film.



A heavy police presence in Foxton Road, Alum Rock. Click enlarge to see a map of the areas where arrests took place

FEMAIL TODAY

Cheryl Cole 'spends night with dancer in LA hotel room'
Singer boards flight back to London as it's revealed Derek Hough was in her room until 4am



Get THAT'S online

Get The Sun on your mobile

THE Sun

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

Search enhanced by Google

Sign-Up | Login into My Sun

- Ironbridge-Meadow Inn &...
- Telford-Hartfield Guest House
- Telford-Madeley Court Hotel
- Telford-Swallow Buckatree...



Ironbridge-Meadow Inn & ...

This modern country pub is just outside Ironbridge, in the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, a few...

from £34 [Book now](#)

BOOKING.COM
online hotel reservation

ME MY SUN SUNLITE SITE MAP NEWS ALERTS SUN TALK

Real Heroes - New Book Helps Support Armed Forces [CONTACT US](#)

- NEWS
- ces
- tain Crunch
- Money
- Says
- City
- Justice
- als
- Green House
- ttish News
- dening
- rd
- LPING HAITI
- DEO
- ORT
- tball
- am Team
- :ket
- rt Videos
- lore
- OWBIZ
- irre
- ine

NEWS

Got a story? We pay £££ Call: 0207 782 4100 - Email: talkback@the-sun.co.uk

We'll behead him in Tipton...



Blueprint for horror - IIS hostage Nick Bern is executed in Iran in 2004

Telford Telford Hotel & Golf...

£41 [Book now](#)

Ironbridge-Meadow Inn & Steakhouse

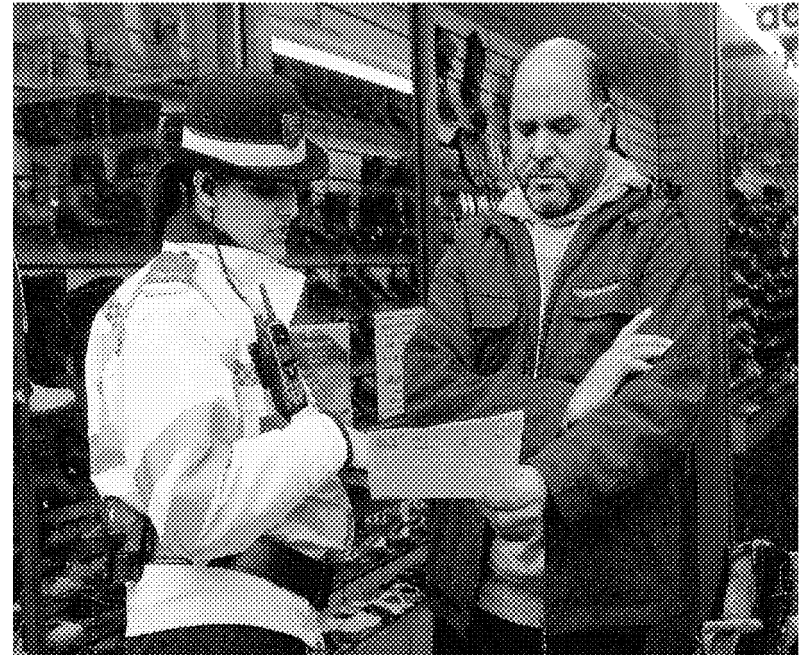
£31 [Book now](#)



Operation Gamble 1

Communications Plan

- Statement ready to issue proactively
- Well manned press office on morning of arrests
- Plans in place for an afternoon press conference
- Multi-lingual leaflets produced (for distribution 24 hours later)
- Multi-lingual phone lines set up (for next day)





Operation Gamble 1

Media Reaction

- Story leaked putting press office on back foot
- Mass convergence on communities
- Photographers' complaints
- Press conference room not big enough/no on-site parking
- Pressure to confirm identity of soldier

Our force vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Operation Gamble 1

Community reaction

- Angry and confused
- Sceptical
- Felt police were heavy handed
- Believed police had invited media to attend and had provided plot details



Example of community pic in national media.



Operation Gamble 2 (executive action 21/10/08)

Synopsis

Arrest of five persons for facilitation (linked to original Gamble).

Four charged and all pleaded guilty.



Operation Gamble 2

Community and media reaction (play video)

Our force vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Operation Gamble 2

Comms planning from lessons learned

- Consciously low-key approach
- Decision not to hold press conference
- More details given in initial press release
- More information given to officers at scene
- Media strategy ran in parallel with community engagement plan

Task	Who	What	By When
Scenario			
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
20/06/08			
Operation Conditions			
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31
32	32	32	32
33	33	33	33
34	34	34	34
35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36
37	37	37	37
38	38	38	38
39	39	39	39
40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47
48	48	48	48
49	49	49	49
50	50	50	50
51	51	51	51
52	52	52	52
53	53	53	53
54	54	54	54
55	55	55	55
56	56	56	56
57	57	57	57
58	58	58	58
59	59	59	59
60	60	60	60
61	61	61	61
62	62	62	62
63	63	63	63
64	64	64	64
65	65	65	65
66	66	66	66
67	67	67	67
68	68	68	68
69	69	69	69
70	70	70	70
71	71	71	71
72	72	72	72
73	73	73	73
74	74	74	74
75	75	75	75
76	76	76	76
77	77	77	77
78	78	78	78
79	79	79	79
80	80	80	80
81	81	81	81
82	82	82	82
83	83	83	83
84	84	84	84
85	85	85	85
86	86	86	86
87	87	87	87
88	88	88	88
89	89	89	89
90	90	90	90
91	91	91	91
92	92	92	92
93	93	93	93
94	94	94	94
95	95	95	95
96	96	96	96
97	97	97	97
98	98	98	98
99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100



Operation Gamble 2

Daily Telegraph 22/10/08

Five arrested 'in plot to blow up state buildings'

By Duncan Gardham
Security Correspondent

FIVE men were arrested by counter-terrorism police yesterday over an alleged plot to blow up government buildings.

The men were being held in connection with an investigation into attacks that date back more than a year and were up to a larger coordinated effort, the Daily Telegraph has learned.

Their names followed an investigation into a so-called "Plan X" plot, from South Herts, Birmingham, who was asked for the earlier this year after pleading guilty to plotting to kidnap and murder a British prime minister.

West Midlands counter-terrorism staff said they had conducted a "large and complex investigation" before reaching the arrests in order to ensure protecting children and those most at risk to public safety.

The five men, aged between 29 and 34, were detained under the Terrorism Act before searched their homes in the

Spence, Ward End, Micky Hill, Rushley Green and Newnham of Birmingham.

One other residential address in Stratford, Birmingham and two business properties in central Birmingham and Northwich, Warwickshire, were also searched.

Selvi Khan, the father of one of the men arrested, said he was convinced the police had got the wrong man. The 60-year-old father-of-four said he woke up to find the police officers searching his son, Mohammed Selvi, 34.

"My son is not bad, he is a good boy," he said. "But the police brought on the worst day and came to my lady police officers and from then I had arrested my son and said we had to get out as they could arrest. I don't know when I can get back in."

"I was shocked I had been asked by the police to say anything, he just went with them. He is not bad, he has never been bad. All his life, I have had no trouble from him. He had even to work that in all I

went to the police, you don't make trouble in my house? You look."

Mr Khan said his son had a wife and two young children who also live with him in the Stratford house in Eastern Road. He said his son, who works in a steel factory in West Birmingham, came to Birmingham from Pakistan as a six-month-old baby and had not left the country since.

Neighbourhood described Mr Khan as a quiet family man. Hassan Siddiqui, 37, said: "I can't believe he has been arrested. He is the quietest guy you could meet, the last person I would expect to be involved in anything. I don't know how they could be arrested but the police seem to be wrong, he is not like that."

National Abroad Ltd, said Mr Khan works Western culture and was "a bit of a geek" and added: "He is very quiet, I would never suspect him."

The five men were arrested on suspicion of the preparation, perpetration or facilitation of an act of terrorism.

It didn't all go to plan!

The Daily Telegraph

Our force vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Any Questions?

