

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.



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TIMES ONLINE



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

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Times Online SEARCH

from The Times
February 1, 2007

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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".

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Mail Online



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

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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

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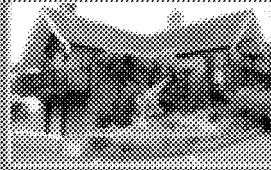
THE Sun

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

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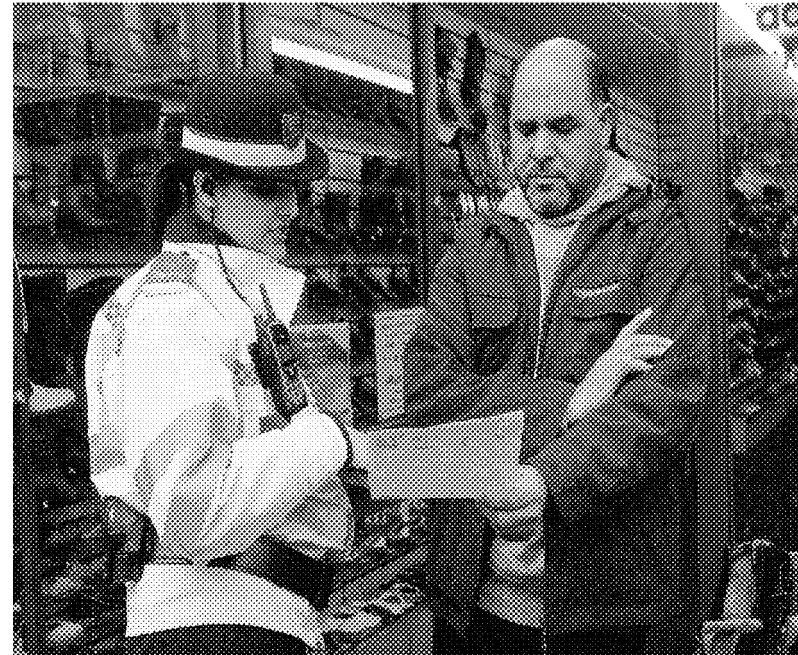
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Operation Gamble 1

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

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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)

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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	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
2	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
3	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
4	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
5	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
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18	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
19	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
20	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
Communications Update Meeting			
1	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
Next Steps/Action Items			
1	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016
2	CTU	Develop a plan for the release of information to the media and the public.	24/04/2016

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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 claims that data from more than a year ago were up to date regarding arrests. The Daily Telegraph has revealed.

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

West Midlands counter-terrorism staff said they had conducted a "large and complex investigation" before reaching the arrests in order to ensure protection of 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, Bunting Cross and Newnham of Birmingham.

One other residential address in Stafford, 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 29-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. "They [the police] knocked on the front door and came in, two lady police officers and four men. They searched my son and said we had to get out as they could search. I don't know when I can go back in."

"I was shocked. I had been asked by my son didn't 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 is 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 at the terraced house in Bunting Cross. He said he was the only person 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 Baksh, 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. If people are planning terrorism then they need to be arrested but the police aren't doing it 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

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Any Questions?

