

• SEARCH

• MY PROFILE

• MY ACCOUNT

• TOP UP ACCOUNT

• LOG OUT

• FAQ

• TERMS & CONDITIONS

• COPYRIGHT

• CONTACT US

NEWS
WORLD

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Scam & chips; Investiagtion

MAZHER MAHMOOD

PASSPORT RACKET RUN FROM CHIPPIE GANG OPENS DOOR TO TERROR THR

THE boss of the High Tide chippie has bigger fish to fry than cod and haddock. He also serves up bogus passports and work visas. Selim Ibishi and his brothers have bagged a fortune-and opened Britain's doors to terrorists-by smuggling in a flood-tide of illegal immigrants on fake documents for a fee of Pounds 9,000 a time. But now, with the News of the World on their tail, the gang have had their chips.

Kosovan Ibishi stood cooking in white chef's gear as he told our undercover reporter: "Don't worry, we can bring anyone to Britain and the proper way.

Touts

"Your man will come with a passport and visa stamps issued by the British embassy.

"I can arrange everything. We've done it so many times, there is no problem. As long as you are ready with the money, we are ready."

Many of the immigrants smuggled in by Ibishi and his brothers, Hosni and Anwer, could easily be Muslim extremists. They include Algerians and Turks.

At the back of the High Tide, in Roehampton, south-west London, a group of men sat at a table eating chips and chatting. "They're here for the same visa business," explained Selim. "I have to deal with them first."

The Muslim brothers, who are feared in their community, pay touts to bring them customers.

We were put in touch by a Kosovan on the run from the Home Office after her asylum application was refused. Jeldes Halimi, a redhead in her 30s, said: "These guys bring people in from anywhere in the world.

"They have links with the British consulate in Macedonia and can arrange for your people to come here on proper visas. It's not cheap, but there's no hiding in lorries." After serving cod and chips to a customer, Selim came over to our reporter and shook hands.

"I have CCTV recording in here so we have to be careful," he said.

"If someone broke in, the police would go through the film and listen to us talking about passports!

"I've got three or four businesses-I employ people so I can get them visas."

Selim called over bald-headed Anwer and burly Hosni and said: "Go with them and they'll explain everything. They are my real brothers." The pair led our reporter across the road to the Angel pub to do business. Our man said his brother was a Pakistani who wanted to enjoy a new life in Britain.

Hosni, who owns a restaurant in Esher, Surrey, said: "First he has to have a Kosovan or Yugoslavian passport made, but not in his real Muslim name.

"If he has a beard he must shave it. He must look like a European not an Arab.

"He should never tell anyone where he is from. We are Muslims ourselves, one of our brothers is a mullah.

"The length of the visa depends on what his qualifications are. You have to make up a CV for him.

Expenses

"If he claims to be a barman, we will write to the Home Office and say we need a worker for a year. We have good businesses so they trust us."

Anwer chipped in: "He'll have to go to Skopia in Macedonia to collect his visa at the British high commission. All the paperwork will be done by us.

"He's not the first one or the last," he laughed. "We will pick him up from Heathrow airport.

"Once he arrives here, he's your responsibility, you take him. You will have to pay us a couple of months' taxes for him because officially he will be our employee. It'll only be a few hundred quid a month.

"It's Pounds 9,000 for a one-year visa. Travelling expenses are yours." The pair demanded their fee up front then went back to the chippie.

The fish-shop plotters could be netted by the cops. Our dossier, including video recordings, is available to the authorities.

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