

## Brixton Mosque – Press Release The Finsbury Park Attack

Brixton Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre is saddened by the cruel and calculated terrorist attack Finsbury Park on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 which has resulted in the death of 1 person and others seriously injured. The fanatical attacker supposedly stated that he wants “to kill Muslims”.

This cowardly attack on innocent people leaving a place of worship is the epitome of gutlessness and degeneracy, and is totally contrary to any humane and civilised ethical conduct the world over.

Brixton Mosque rejects all forms of extremism and of all trends and persuasions. This is whether such extremism surfaces on our own doorstep in Brixton, London generally, Birmingham, Manchester or wherever extremist fanatics dwell. We beseech the government to afford the manifestation of far-right due concern, as over the last decade it appears that it has been underplayed.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There are a number of significant case far-right terrorism in England:

- ❖ **Robert Cottage and the Talbot Street bomb-making haul** – a former BNP candidate from Colne in Lancashire who was jailed in July 2007 for possessing explosive chemicals in his home. The amount of explosives discovered was “described by police at the time of his arrest as the largest amount of chemical explosive of its type ever found in this country”. There was scant reporting of this in the mainstream press. Cottage received two and half years in prison.
- ❖ **Martyn Gilleard** - a Nazi sympathiser from Goole in East Yorkshire, was jailed in June 2008 after police found nail bombs, bullets, swords, axes and knives in his apartment, as well as a note in which he had written: “I am so sick and tired of hearing nationalists talk of killing Muslims, of blowing up mosques, of fighting back...the time has come to stop the talk and start to act.”
- ❖ **Nathan Worrell** – a neo-Nazi from Grimsby described by police as a ‘**dangerous individual**’ who hoarded bomb-making materials in his home, and was found guilty in December 2008 of possessing material for terrorist purposes and for racially aggravated harassment.
- ❖ **Neil MacGregor** – pleaded guilty to “**threatening to blow up Glasgow Central Mosque and behead a Muslim every week until every mosque in Scotland was closed**”. Yet again, minimal interest from the mainstream press and politicians about such plots.
- ❖ **Ian Davidson** – a White British supremacist who made Ricin and tried to recruit his own teenage son to run the ‘Aryan Strike Force’. In 2010 he was jailed for ten years after becoming

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the first Briton to be convicted for producing a chemical weapon. Davidson, who went for secret training days in Cumbria with the rest of the ASF, pleaded guilty to producing a chemical weapon, preparing acts of terrorism, three counts of possessing material useful to commit acts of terrorism and possessing a prohibited weapon. Davidson had discussed poisoning Muslim water supplies and posting cockroaches through the letter boxes of Muslim businesses and restaurants in order to start infestations which would then lead to their closure. However, unlike Anders Behring Breivik, Davidson, being an admirer of Hitler, attacked Zionism and referred to the Jews as being the “sworn enemy” of the Aryan people.

- ❖ **Terence Gavan** – a former soldier and BNP member was convicted on January 15 2010 for manufacturing nail bombs and a vast array of explosives, firearms and weapons. It was, Mr Justice Calvert-Smith said, **“the largest of its kind in the UK in modern history”**. Gavan had previously pleaded guilty to 22 charges at Woolwich Crown Court. Gavan specifically had Muslim targets in mind and planned to target an address he had seen on a TV programme that he believed was linked to the 7/7 attacks. Police discovered 12 firearms and 54 IEDs which included nail bombs and a booby-trapped cigarette packet at the home Gavan shared with his mother. After the case, head of the North East Counter Terrorism Unit David Buxton said Gavan posed a significant risk to public safety. ‘Gavan was an extremely dangerous and unpredictable individual’, he said. ‘The sheer volume of home-made firearms and grenades found in his bedroom exposed his obsession with weapons and explosives...Gavan used his extensive knowledge to manufacture and accumulate devices capable of causing significant injury or harm.’

Cottage and Gavan piled up the largest hoards of chemical weapons and explosives in British history yet received scant analysis in the media. Indeed, figures compiled by Europol, the European police agency, suggest that the threat of al-Qā’idah inspired terrorism is minimal compared to “ethno-nationalist” and separatist terrorism. According to Europol, in 2006, one out of 498 documented terrorist attacks across Europe could be classed as ‘Islamist’; in 2007, the figure rose to just four out of 583 – less than one per cent of the total. By contrast, 517 attacks across the European continent were claimed by, or attributed to, nationalist or separatist terrorist groups, such as ETA in Spain.

Sources:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/6923933.stm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/dec/13/uk-security-nazi-terrorist-jailed>

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<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/05/01/man-who-threatened-to-bomb-mosque-suffering-from-mental-illness-court-hears-86908-21323897/>

<http://www.perthshireadvertiser.co.uk/perthshire-news/local-news->

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[28479557/](http://www.perthshireadvertiser.co.uk/perthshire-news/local-news-perthshire/perthshire/2011/04/08/former-soldier-threatened-to-bomb-mosque-73103-28479557/)

We reiterate that Muslims during these difficult times remain vigilant and defend themselves appropriately where necessary.

The public relations team are available for further discussion and are ever-willing to assist serious and credible researchers and journalists.

**Media and Public Relations Department**  
**Brixton Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre, London**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

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See Martin Wainwright, “Neo-Nazi Ian Davidson jailed for ten years for making chemical weapon” in *The Guardian* (of London), Friday 14 May 2010:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/14/neo-nazi-ian-davison-jailed-chemical-weapon>

Europol, *EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report*, March 2007, pp.3-5, 31.