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THE WORLD - upside down

by Udo Ulfkotte



Dealing with dangerous Islamists means living dangerously. However, sometimes the danger does not stem from the Islamists in Germany but from German administration. Describing historical processes complete with background is the historian's task. The following report will help future generations to understand why Christian and Western Culture lost the battle against hate filled extremist Islamists with eyes wide open.

I am not important in this story. My person could be exchanged. Others have had the same experience when dealing with Islamists in Germany. They keep silent because of their kids. And they keep silent because they fear for their jobs. My readers should be aware that I do not know Islamists only from dusty books but have observed over 15 years in their countries of origin: Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Saudi-Arabia, Yemen, Syria, the Emirates, Algeria, Jordan, Indonesia, and Malaysia. I met the group around Osama Bin Laden mid of the 90s in the Sudan capital Khartoum. At the confluence of the White and the Blue Nile they had a plot of land of about eight acres.

Bin Laden had already left Khartoum when I visited there; some of his followers were still there. Already by dawn the men were sitting together in prayer. An air conditioned dairy farm was located only about 100 yards from there. The only Jewish family in Sudan produced milk in these sheds. The black and white cows came from Fries land (flat land in Northern Germany). The Al Qaeda followers on the nearby plot were also among the customers. In the Western World Al Qaeda was not yet an issue. No newspaper reported about the self-identified "holy warriors".

The same holy warriors I met again later in Afghanistan. They tried hard to convert me to Islam. I have had the same experience at hundreds of meetings with followers of Hamas, Hezbollah, Hisb ut-Tahrir, and several other groups which appear in today's headlines again and again. All of them are convinced that by their actions they will lead the world into an allegedly better future. Then I could observe these Islamists building booby traps and with submachine guns type AK-47 we have shot from a safe distance on empty cans in the desert. I always was the worst shot. While they tried converting me to Islam they told me about their plans. They talked about the renewal of the Caliphate. They talked about Europe which would be significantly Muslim within a few decades. They glorified terror. They were sure that they could destroy the culture of the "infidels".

I remember: An Islamism leader told me in Teheran that chancellor Kohl should better start flattering him otherwise he would regret later. I have noted this down - and laughed internally. I did not take this man seriously. During this time I asked myself how naïve these holy warriors could possibly be. In retrospect the naïve one was me. The Islamist leader in Teheran should later become internationally known as the

leader of the terrorist organizing bomb attacks on international troops in Iraq after the US invasion. He and most of my acquaintances then appear on Western most wanted lists today.

In longer assignments in regions of crisis and war one inevitably gets to know members of intelligence services. People are talking about their experiences, exchanging information. Over the years this develops into a network. The doors of the chancellery open, the list of contacts widens to several thousand names. Documents are getting leaked: from intelligence services, administrations and also companies. Thousands of puzzle parts are falling slowly in place to form a big picture. Past 9/11 this mosaic was suddenly of public interest. In the following months I have summarized my knowledge in newspaper articles and books. I am teaching security management and defense against terror at a north German university.

Many respectable civil servants have given me unsolicited information - for example talking to me after lectures. Ministers on state and federal level invited me for discussions. This is the background of my book "Der Krieg in unseren Staedten - Wie radikale Islamisten Deutschland unterwandern" (The War in Our Cities - How Radical Islamists Undermine Germany) published in spring 2003. While the media have bashed me for its content, this report is not fiction. I have truthfully compiled pages of the findings of German and other intelligence services regarding terror networks in Germany. The Muslim brotherhood as the umbrella gathering nearly all radical groups is preaching "dialogue" to the outside while inciting hatred within; its spin-offs also pretend to be peaceful while they support violent actions in secret. When rereading the reviews I am still surprised at the scorn and sneer of the media. Many of the critics place in the extreme right corner because of the actions I demanded should be implemented. Even when Minister of the Interior, Otto Schily, exceeded my suggestions by far with his security measures in the following months, my image in the media did not improve. With time one gets used to be blamed for being the bearer of bad news. Therefore I was pleased to get honored the same year as the recipient of the "Staatsbuergerlicher Preis" (civic price) for my research on defense against terror. Bavaria's Minister of Interior, Guenther Beckstein, was giving the Laudation.

At the same time more and more Islamists filed for injunctive relief against my book. Dozens of obligations on injunctive relief and threatened law suits did not disturb me in the beginning. Had I not several administrative documents for every sentence I wrote in my book? I was glad. The Islamists could not prevail. Engraved in lime stone on the entrance to Freiburg University where I have studied in the 80s is the sentence: "And truth will make you free." I have memorized this sentence forever. Thousands of times had I entered there on my way to the law faculty. The truth could not be suppressed, could it?

Unfortunately my evidence came from the documents of intelligence services. Wire tapped phone conversations, photos secretly taken of Islamists meetings, manhunts. Exchange of findings between European services. I had not taken into account that no intelligence service will disclose its sources and its processes of gaining information in a public court. Therefore I was alone going on trial. And the documents did not help for the Islamists from the camouflage fronts of the Muslim Brotherhood just denied their content. Even when public official reports - for example from the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution - confirmed my statements, the plaintiffs denied the content and filed another suit against the relevant administration. The exercise was getting expensive. Soon the law costs exceeded 50,000 Euro. My impression was that some of the claimants exploited cynically the possibilities of the constitution while seeking to destroy the constitutional state: I remember an Islamist from Marburg who got legal aid and globally denied all passages concerning him. This man pretended to be destitute. He lost the suit before it began since he owned several apartments. The publishing house and I have had several such experiences. Incidentally the son of this man is today one of the best known spokespeople of Muslim organizations in Germany. The time in court was really interesting. Plaintiffs claimed that they never celebrated the attacks of 9/11 although they had been filmed doing so by the intelligence service. They knew that members of the services would not show their faces in court.

If somebody had told me then that several German intelligence services were investigating against me on the charge of treasonous disclosure - I would not have believed him. The representatives of the services were encouraging me during the trials and continued leaking documents to me. In this context I informed the public on terror structures and their networks. On March 11 2004 Islamist terrorist attacked in Madrid. Several sources informed me a few days later that traces of the attackers had led to Germany. I spread this information on TV on March 25 and 26. Minister of Interior Otto Schilly was reportedly furious. He repudiated my statements. Hans Leyendecker obviously had similar knowledge about my "false alarm" and

titled his article in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung "empty bragging - an expert on terror". Six weeks later both Focus and Spiegel would report that one of the Spanish attackers had lived in Germany and pointed out that there were traced to Germany which the administration had denied. Hans Leyendecker was wrong.

In the meantime, however, my fortune changed: On March 32 2004 several civil servants were searching my home and also the offices of my wife in a different building. The allegation: Bribery of civil servants and assistance to treason. I felt like in a movie. Never had I offered money for information to any civil servant. For over a decade the authorities had actively leaked information to me. And their representatives had always encouraged me to publish this information. However, the investigating prosecutor had once found that journalists are also getting information by bribery. And thus my destiny took a turn for the worse. The bearer of bad news was publicly executed.

The Islamists celebrated the statements of the office of the prosecution in Frankfurt in the internet. Most of the media joined them in their triumph. Suddenly I was a criminal. Long time friends started avoiding me, neighbors stopped receiving parcels for a "criminal", and my wife lost her subsistence. A picture of her offices from the outside in a yellow paper made sure that the clients of her accounting service were warned not do business with a "criminal". Since her lease had a period of notice of 12 months, my wife had to pay rent for a full year - without clients. Collateral damage of German security authorities. At the same time Lueneburg University had decided to raise my position to a full professorship. Now, first of all I have to wait for the end of the criminal procedure against me.

Since no clues on bribery could be found, several further searches followed. Between March 2004 and March 2005 my private home and the offices of my wife were each searched twice, another search at my tax accountant should have yielded evidence of my entertaining, with possibly the name of a civil servant among the guests. In spite of the fact that I never had an office at the Lueneburg University and the Prosecutor in Frankfurt was aware of my pending professorship, the University of Lueneburg was also searched - apparently hoping that they might find evidence of my entertaining there which might flesh out the charge of bribery or civil servants. The dean and the professors have been lastingly impressed with the investigation. I have never entertained civil servants with the exception of Minister Beckstein (my wife had baked three cakes for him and his body guards), so I was confident that the Frankfurt Prosecution would publicly apologize for the false accusations. Indeed the file on bribery was closed in 2005 as well as the file on assistance to treason. Unfortunately the Prosecutor cannot be impelled to announce the closing of a file with the same publicity the investigations had been opened with. Therefore the public still remains under the impression that I might have bribed civil servants.

Replacing the above false and libelous accusations the prosecution is now investigating me for over two and half years on the charge of incitement to betrayal of state secrets. The action has been brought in over a year ago. Unfortunately the court where I could quickly prove that I never incited any civil servant to betray state secrets has no time. As I am writing these lines there is not even a glimmer of hope that a date in court will be fixed. After over two and half years I am leaving the state of Hessen since I do not wish to co-finance this procedure with my taxes.

I have heard from many civil servants that money is an issue with anti terror manhunts. Urgently requested wire tapings in the environment of violent Islamists are not approved by the prosecution even without any money lacking for this action. In my case, however, money obviously flew and flows freely. According to documents I could see my above mentioned book had been checked by several clerks sentence for sentence where my information might come from over a period of several weeks. There was also money for wire tapping. When I was talking to journalists the security authorities were in the know. Temporarily I was PBO - marked for observation by police forces. The six searches, the wire tapping, the observation by specialists coming from far away and the analysis of the data have cost a lot of money - money which must lack in investigating terror networks.

For the record, once more: Nobody accuses me of spreading untrue information public statements or in books on the terror networks in Germany and the danger they represent to the public. On the contrary this information is based on truth and is obviously perceived as such a threat to the public that their spreading must be prevented. However if one focuses too much on the bearer of bad news the real danger sometimes gets forgotten.

In February 2006 I published in the magazine "Park Avenue" a long report on the interaction of phone shops and terror cells in Germany. The Federal Office of Criminal Investigation had always responded to my inquiries that there was no such connection while the evidence was on hand at German security authorities. Had I published this evidence and thus exposed the Federal Criminal Police Office the next, seventh searching would probably have followed. It needed the suitcase bombings fortunately prevented by chance until the Federal Criminal Police Office was aware of the cooperation of "call-shops" and terror cells. Today we know that the Lebanese terrorists built their net via the "call-shop" scene in Hamburg and Kiel. In Madrid and London the security authorities had got to such findings as well - only after the attacks.

My book "Der Krieg in unseren Staedten - Wie radikale Islamisten Deutschland unterwandern" (The War in Our Cities - How Radical Islamists Undermine Germany) is no longer available. You can only purchase it second-hand at www.amazon.de and ebay. Most of my forecasts in the books have been confirmed by reality by now, but Islamists succeeded in forcing the publisher to take it quietly off the market in summer 2006. After the book had passed all legal barriers in over three years and was going strong, Islamists from Birmingham and Vienna threatened a flood of law suits. Law suits which obviously had no base at all. One of the claimants stated that he had never been a member of the radical Islamist Muslim brotherhood contrary. When seeking asylum in Germany he justified his demand by stating that he was persecuted in his home country as a member of "Al ikhwan muslimoun". This is the Arabic term for: Muslim Brotherhood.

The treats by these Islamists were backed by the announcement that further legal suits by other Islamists would follow until the book was taken off the market. Publishing house and author have therefore taken the book off the market since not even one politician was willing to give his/her support. Nobody was interested. An end to the investigations against "criminal" Ulfkotte is not in sight. A civil servant lately let me know that an "anonymous note" with suspicions on pedophile pornography on my computer could be enough to justify another search warrant. At the same time I regularly find in my letter box official documents of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Intelligence Service stamped "confidential" or "secret" - against my will and uncalled for. The first such documents I have returned to the authorities by registered mail. However, the "fun" did not end so far. When I call to ask whom I should return the documents to I do not get a response.

Immediately after the numerous searchings I was furious at the German administrations. Today I feel only pity. And dismay at the politicians who prefer to close their eyes when instead Islamists those who disclose their networks are persecuted. In Islamist circles the name Udo Ulfkotte is now proof that the fundamentalists and those willing to use violence are on the "right" path. A young Muslim in the environment of my students told me that it has to be a sign of Allah that the author of the book "Der Krieg in unseren Staedten" is now a defendant in a criminal process while Islamists continue to recruit follows unhampered.

For many years I go to the forest chapel in the Taunus in the mooring. I light a candle and find strength for a new day in prayer. During all those years of battle and indignity the forest chapel was a place where I could gather confidence. Since February 2006 the chapel has been vandalized several times. In the morning of July 5th I found it in so far the worst state: the candle holders had been struck off the walls and the Madonna made from lime wood had served as target for thrown bottles. When I advised the police on the incident I was asked what I was expecting the police to do. I am not complaining against the police officers in charge. However, I suddenly realized that our society's values have much changed. Had a Muslim prayer room been vandalized - the Office for Criminal Investigation would certainly not have hesitated to open investigations. In this case nothing happened - nothing. Two weeks after the havoc of the chapel a local newspaper reported. That was all. In the meantime the chapel has been vandalized a fourth and fifth time, immediately after it had been painstakingly restored and repainted with donations of the local population. I am no longer bothering the police with such information. Obviously the world I am living in is upside down.

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