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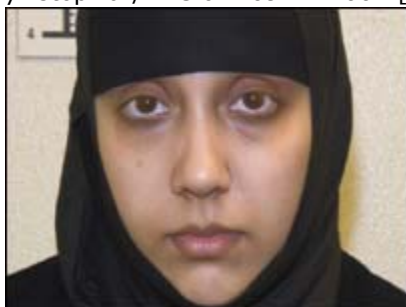
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## Another UK verdict worthy of Nazi era: 'Lyrical Terrorist' found guilty (Update: "Thought-crime" conviction)

By: stopwar/BBC on: 09.11.2007 [08:00 ] (365 reads)



Samina Malik denied being a terrorist

(6408 bytes) [c]

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<b>Today</b>						

A 23-year-old who called herself the "Lyrical Terrorist" has become the first woman in the UK to be convicted under the Terrorism Act.

Samina Malik, from Southall, west London, was found guilty at the Old Bailey of owning terrorist manuals.

The jury heard Malik had written extremist poems praising Osama Bin Laden, supporting martyrdom and discussing beheading.

Malik worked at WH Smith at Heathrow Airport until her arrest last October.

She had earlier been found not guilty of the more serious charge, under Section 57 of the Act, of possessing an article for a terrorist purpose. She denied the charges.

Extremist 'library'

Malik burst into tears in the dock when the verdict was read out.

Following the verdict, Judge Peter Beaumont QC, the Recorder of London, told Malik: "You have been in many respects a complete enigma to me."

She had posted her poems on websites under the screen name the Lyrical Terrorist, prosecutors said.

Malik said the poems were "meaningless", but prosecutor Jonathan Sharp said: "These communications strongly indicate Samina Malik was deeply involved with terrorist related groups."

Police said they had found a "library" of extreme Islamist literature in her bedroom including The Al-Qaeda Manual and The Mujahideen Poisons Handbook.

The cover of a weapons manual found in Samina Malik's bedroom

The court also heard she had written on the back of a WH Smith till receipt: "The desire within me increases every day to go for martyrdom."

Malik said she had only called herself the Lyrical Terrorist "because it sounded cool".

She was convicted of having articles "likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism".

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke, head of the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command, said: "Malik held violent extremist views which she shared with other like-minded people over the internet. She also tried to donate money to a terrorist group.

"She had the ideology, ability and determination to access and download material, which could have been useful to terrorists. Merely possessing this material is a serious criminal offence."

Malik was bailed under what the judge described as "house arrest" until her sentencing on 6 December.

He warned her that "all sentencing options" remained open to him.

## Thought-crime conviction

Sherman McCoy | 08.11.2007 14:16 | Terror War | Birmingham | Manchester

Samina Malik has been convicted of thinking or writing unacceptable things under the Terrorism Act 2000. This invasion of the mind by the authorities and the courts is yet another example of the annihilation of civil liberties. Whilst Georgians and lawyers in Pakistan rise up to challenge their governments why is it that we are so accepting of the assault on our freedoms.

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Dr Martin Luther King

The Old Bailey's valuable time has recently been taken up with the prosecution of WHSmith, Heathrow shopworker Samina Malik.

She now finds herself convicted of the crime of "possessing records likely to be used for terrorism". In the same way that the mentally ill can now be locked up if they present a potential threat, thinkers who have not acted can also be charged and convicted. And at the international level a country can be dealt with pre-emptively if there is a suggestion of a threat. These represent sinister applications of the precautionary principle, originally devised to take the necessary action where there is a potential threat to the environment or human health- as has been used to challenge the switch to GM food.

According to Maliks accusers she led a double-life in which she concealed a counter-identity as a threat to civilised society. The jury was left with little choice other than to convict her of collecting articles "likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism". Despite this one member of the jury declared her not guilty

Yet Malik claims her poems were "meaningless" and she called herself the Lyrical Terrorist, she said, "because it sounded cool". It did not mean she was actually a terrorist or wanted to be one, she said.

Malik told the court she started writing love poetry while at Villiers High School in Southall. In early 2002, using the name Lyrical Babe, she said she began writing rap poems about guns and violence in the style of artists Tupac Shakur and 50 Cent. At the same time, she said her interest in Islam began to grow and in 2004 she started wearing a hijab. It was then that Malik changed her online name to the Lyrical Terrorist.

She told the court: "It is only a user name. You have taken it too literally and out of context. It was only because it was a cool name. It doesn't mean I'm a terrorist."

It could be you or me. I possess a record by Afro Mystik entitled 'Trivia terrorist'. I also have other tracks by musicians such as Saul Williams who are critical of the war on terror. This is personal. If you are a white, British, property owner or car driver these measures are being taken in your name- in our name and yet those that resist could be next

It is interesting to juxtapose the accounts of the trial given by BBC Online and the Guardian. The BBC piece is more nuanced despite the fact that they couldn't resist placing a picture of that devil Abu Hamza at the top.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/terrorism/story/0,,2207426,00.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7068945.stm>

I don't want to be overly critical or pessimistic and I extend this comment to myself. We in the libertarian/socialist movement are truly pathetic. Whilst people in Burma, China, India, Pakistan and Georgia are standing up to their governments on the streets all we seem capable of doing is lock ons or vacuous marches from A to B. My greatest crime is my fear, fear of what they will do to me yet everyday other people around the world overcome their fear and take risks.

How bad do things have to get before we take concerted positive action in the streets? By that time it may well be too late. Lets get out there, get bashed up and test the public mood

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**Disgusting**

by pilot-x on 09.11.2007 [07:02 ]

As children in the 60s we used to joke about acts of violence and mayhem. Guns were readily available. Any person in a soceity of 15-35%psychopaths is quite capable of nefarious acts. We are lucky that politeness and consideration are the norm in the personality of most of us humans. I recall a quote; even the worst of criminals is well behaved MOST of the time... Sorryly you cannot kill the boogeyman he is in all of us.,. Hopefully she tunnels her way out of prison and makes a nice new home maybe in the KREMLIN certainly a better place than putrefieing DARK AGES ENGLAND

**@pilot-x**

by stopwar on 09.11.2007 [07:51 ]

"Dark Ages Britain" is right.

BBC radio brought on an academic to condemn her "radicalised" behaviour - in fact that academic compared her to Joan of Arc, to the acute embarrassment of the (also female) interviewer.

**You fucking kidding me?**

by poiuytr on 09.11.2007 [10:19 ]

Poem = being involved "closely" with a terrorist group, as per UK justice system????

You fuckers are kidding me?????

I mean, after all, Blair did L77 and Bush 911. What else can be expected from child murderers.

But the drizzly foggy ugly isle has just got even uglier. Stopwar, is there any opposition whatsoever on the ugly Nelson pud column streets or are you all happy little squealing pigs now offal-wallowing your stretched out foreskin pork bellies in bubbling heaps of your own feces? This is so sordid even I lack the proper terminology to accurately address this degree of dripping dickpiss rectal bristle puss.

**If writing and having a militant nickname is a crime then prisons will be full**

by Finn on 09.11.2007 [12:39 ]

Rather unbelievable court case. Having extremist opinions, but not having done anything. Well with these kind of criteria in the prisons had be put hundreds of millions. Strange that only Muslims with extremist opinions should be trailed.

It would be nice to know doesn't the law apply also those militant pro-Israeli, anti Arab right-wingers who write about killing Arabs/Muslims and are nuking Mecca in every third paragraph. Also some of them have strange nicknames.

**Speechless**

by TerraHertz on 09.11.2007 [14:01 ]

Just utterly beyond words....

For fucks sake, what does it take? And the irony is, that the only possible reaction to such bullshit, is to advocate of commit exactly the kind of activities she \*didn't\* do.

I can see myself in front of a judge, trying to explain what my TerraHertz nic means... and failing to convince the pointy headed bastard.

Fuckers.

**OMG**

by askatasuna on 09.11.2007 [18:23 ]

Ill have to delete all my "terrorist" stuff from my drive now?

The Al-Qaeda Manual and The Mujahideen Poisons Handbook" reads "Printed in New Jersey" on the back...

**"FREE SAMINA MALIK"**

by \_merk\_ on 09.11.2007 [18:32 ]

should be written on thousands of posters and plastered over thousands of cities in UK. With a picture of the judge ... whose forehead should have a swastika superimposed. Demonstrations should be on her behalf rather than against the wars. People more easily relate to a human story than to the concept of wars or the fuzzy laws of the "terrorism act." Most importantly, stress the Nazi connection. Even sleepy, indifferent Brits will have to acknowledge that the UK has gone Nazi. And they will not accept it. I hope.

**I've been telling you guys the signs were ominous...**

by stopwar on 09.11.2007 [18:43 ]

and now its finally happened. What next? Burning books?

Also, read about George Galloway's convention being cancelled by the venue's corporate owner.

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