

Sudan USA UK Analysis

Sudan Hand in Glove With USA in "Intelligence"

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From: Mathaba

As has been known for many years, but recently surfaced again in the US newspaper the Baltimore Sun, Sudan has secretly worked with the CIA to spy on the insurgency in Iraq.

This was hailed by the paper as an example of how the United States has continued to cooperate with the Sudanese regime even while condemning its role in the killing of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Darfur and the displacement of several million people in what has been termed a 'genocidal' policy of the regime.

Sudan has long co-operated closely with Britain's MI6, even having at least one agent working at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Whitehall. One of the most notorious torture houses used by the regime's 'security force' to torture prisoners is located a stone's throw from the British embassy in the centre of Khartoum.

Sudan has co-operated for several decades with both the C.I.A. and M.I.6. in several fields. Firstly, key Islamists within the regime including Dr Turabi were financed whilst based in Gulf Arab states, in order to bring them to power finally in a military coup on June 30th, 1989.

The rationale behind the support for the Sudanese Arab Islamists or "jihadists" has been to gain the confidence of the Muslim community by boosting their 'Anti-American' credentials.

Osama Bin Laden, as revealed by Mathaba already in early 2000, more than one year before his rise to the front of the world's newspaper pages, was financed by British intelligence in order to train terrorists in Afghanistan to operate against the erstwhile Soviet-supported regime as well as against Libya's Muammar Qadhafi.

Bin Laden himself was based in the Sudan, awash with dollars, using the country with the full support of the current regime as a base for terrorism. The Sudanese security and intelligence forces had repeatedly asked the United States C.I.A. and Britain's M.I.6. for instructions concerning him, and given none.

At one stage when tensions were rising between elements of the Sudanese Islamist regime who did not know about the depth of co-operation and when U.S. open threats were made against the Sudanese regime under pressure from human rights and civil society organizations in the U.S., this fact was widely publicized by the Sudanese who felt betrayed by their foreign handlers, as proof that the U.S. and Britain were not really concerned about Bin Laden.

Libya had also long co-operated with Interpol and has Osama Bin Laden on their list of wanted terrorists, again the British and Americans would not co-operate and instead even gave Laden medical treatment and further finance at meetings in the Gulf, as reported shortly before the spectacular September 11 terrorist events.

The Sudanese regime has long had a history of co-operating with dodgy foreign elements. Key members of the current regime, including the ideologue Dr. Amin Hassan Omer and Dr. Hassan Turabi, were also key figures in the previous Numeiri regime, which had an open client state status for the United States acting as a bullwork against Libya.

During the era of that regime, Sudan was used as the secret toxic material and nuclear waste dumping ground for the United States, whilst people in remote areas died mysterious deaths when stumbling upon the dumps.

More recently, during the U.N. sanctions against Iraq between the two Gulf Wars, Iraq got rid of all its chemical and possibly biological Weapons of Mass Destruction (W.M.D.), by sending them to Sudan. This has not been reported in the western media, nor is it known among most circles, because reports leaking out of Sudan about this did not fit with the need to inform the American and British public that Saddam Hussein still possessed W.M.D., in order to launch the second Gulf War and ultimate occupation of Iraq's oil fields and country and the installation of a client state there.

These chemicals have been used in part in the south of Sudan by the Arab Islamist regime against African resistance there, and entire villages were wiped out in South Sudan in experimentation of the effects of these weapons. No one today raises the question about where all the stockpiles from Iraq went to, when Iraq complied with the U.N. orders to eliminate its stocks.

During the sanctions against Libya, Sudan secretly confiscated shiploads of weapons that Libya had purchased from China for its conventional defense forces, and diverted these armaments to the south of Sudan for use against the African population there. This led to a temporary souring of relations with Libya and the cancellation of heavily subsidized oil supplies to Sudan.

Sudan also hosted the Venezuelan born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as "Carlos the Jackal", wanted in France for several assassinations of capitalists, whilst in the Arab and third world as well as among far-left Europeans he was considered a hero and friend of the Arab people's, in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and the Libyan revolution.

During sensitivities over the sanctions set against Libya by the United States and Britain, and ultimately the United Nations Security Council, as Libya sought to rid itself of alleged terrorist elements, Carlos sought a quiet home in Sudan. However, French intelligence spotted him there, and demanded the Sudanese hand him over.

Sudan complied promptly, drugging him and shipping him off to France in exchange for satellite photos of the South of the country and an undisclosed amount of money, the images used to increase the Arab Islamist regime's strength in the war against the South of Sudan.

Sudan was also the base for a terrorist assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whilst he was on a visit to neighbouring Ethiopia. The terrorists had diplomatic cover and were protected by the Sudanese regime.

A key Islamist ideologue, Abu Bakr Shingieti, was based in the United States under diplomatic cover and helped to organize several terrorist incidents in the United States, before being whisked back to Sudan and investigations dropped, according to media reports at the time.

Sudanese intelligence under the cover of the "Munazamma Dawa" Islamic Call Organization of Sudan, financed and instigated the riots in the North of Nigeria, in an attempt to set up an Islamist state and destabilize the region. Thousands of Nigerians died as a result before the plot was uncovered.

London is also used as a financial base for the Sudanese terrorists and the regime in Sudan, via a front company in St. John's Wood by the name of Warm Seas, according to information leaked from the company. Warm Seas still operates this office, channeling millions into the regimes coffers, with the de-facto head of Sudanese Islamist intelligence, Ibrahim Zanussi, staying at Warm Seas proprietor "Captain" Nur Zaroug's residence in London during visits there.

Zanussi, according to the information, and known within other Arab circles in London, is involved in arms deals, drug running, and is a main money handler for the Islamist dictatorship regime of Sudan, whilst also channeling funds out of Sudan into investments in the Gulf, Malaysia and Japan, where he and other key members of the Sudanese regime have residences.

Sudanese "doctors" who had been involved in the secret detention centers in Khartoum called "ghost houses" where prisoners are held incommunicado without trial and without charge, and are tortured with a variety of methods, sought refuge in Britain whilst studying medicine and practicing in British hospitals. They were discovered by some of the torture victims, and placed for a short period under house arrest in Britain.

However, the Sudanese intelligence negotiated with their British handlers at M.I.6. to have them quietly returned to Sudan, also getting assurances that the British would not reveal the killings of Sudanese human rights victims who had sought refuge at the British embassy in Khartoum and were turned away, in exchange for Sudan's co-operation in allowing the British embassy to re-open after its closure following U.S. President Clinton's "diversion" missile attack on Sudan.

Other co-operations involved the torture of a British citizen in the Sudan by the Sudanese intelligence, because the British had misinformed them that he was spying for Libya. He lost not only his business there as a result, but his health and marriage, whilst being offered no support upon his return to Britain. He was told to pursue legal actions against the Sudanese regime "on his own, inside Sudan", the government refusing to raise his case with their friendly client regime.

"Intelligence cooperation takes place for a whole lot of reasons," a U.S. intelligence official told the Baltimore sun, like others speaking on condition of anonymity when discussing intelligence assessments. "It's not always between people who love each other deeply."

The United States has relied increasingly upon Sudan since the Sept. 11 attacks because the Sunni Arab nation is a crossroads for Islamic militants making their way to Iraq and Pakistan. That steady flow of foreign fighters has provided cover for Sudan's Islamist intelligence services to insert spies into Iraq, officials said.

"If you've got jihadists traveling via Sudan to get into Iraq, there's a pattern there in and of itself that would not raise suspicion," said a former high-ranking CIA official familiar with Sudan's cooperation with the agency. "It creates an opportunity to send Sudanese into that pipeline."

Sudanese are widespread in other Arab countries, and speak good English unlike most other Arabs. They also have a healthy dislike of other Africans and Arabs, seeing themselves as superior, but as inferior to whites, according to a psychological analyst who has studied the Sudanese Arab psychology closely.

As a result, Sudan's spies have often been in better position than the CIA to gather information on the resistance in Iraq.

"There's not much that blond-haired, blue-eyed case officers from the United States can do in the entire Middle East, and there's nothing they can do in Iraq," said a second former CIA official familiar with Sudan's cooperation. "Sudanese can go places we don't go. They're Arabs. They can wander around."

The officials declined to say whether the Sudanese have sent their own intelligence officers into the country, citing concern over the protection of sources and methods. They said that Sudan has assembled a network of informants in Iraq providing intelligence on the resistance. Some may have been recruited as they traveled through the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

The U.S.-Sudan relationship goes beyond Iraq however. Sudan has helped the United States track the events in Somalia, working to cultivate contacts with militias and the "Islamic courts" in an effort to locate anyone wanted by the C.I.A. who may be hiding there. Sudan also has provided extensive cooperation in counter-terrorism operations, acting on U.S. requests to detain suspects as they pass through Khartoum.

Because of this reliance on Sudanese, the U.S. State Department recently issued a report calling Sudan a "strong partner in the war on terror" and a State Department woman official praised the Sudanese Arab dictator, military General Omar Hassan Ahmad Bashir as a "charming individual" during a question and answer session on a television network.

John Prendergast, the former director of African affairs for the National Security Council in the Clinton administration, acknowledged that the latest sanctions announced by Bush last month against Sudan are "window dressing," designed to appear tough while putting little real pressure on Sudan to halt government-linked Arab militias from killing members of African tribes in Darfur.

"One of the main glass ceilings on real significant action in response to the genocide in Darfur has been our growing relationship with authorities in Khartoum on counterterrorism," said Prendergast, now with the International Crisis Group. "It is the single biggest contributor to why the gap between rhetoric and action is so large."

In an interview, the Sudan dictatorship's ambassador to the United States, John Ukec Lueth Ukec, suggested that the sanctions could affect the country's willingness to cooperate on intelligence matters. The steps announced by Bush include banning 31 businesses owned by the Sudanese government from access to the U.S. financial system. The bans or "window dressing" were put in place to satisfy an increasingly active and probably largest scale single-issue movement across the U.S. by citizens demanding an end to U.S. co-operation, assistance and investment with the dictatorship there, whilst gross human rights abuses continue.

The decision to impose financial penalties "was not a good idea," Ukec said. "It diminishes our cooperation. And it makes those who are on the extreme side, who do not want cooperation with the United States, stronger."

But White House and U.S. intelligence officials played down the prospect that the intelligence cooperation would suffer, saying that it is in both countries' interests.

"The No. 1 consideration in imposing stiffer sanctions is that the Sudanese government hasn't stopped the violence there and the people continue to suffer," said Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for the National Security Council. "We certainly expect the Sudanese to continue efforts against terrorism because it's in their own interests, not just ours."

A State Department official said Sudan had "provided critical information that has helped our counterterrorism efforts around the globe" but noted that there is an inherent conflict in the relationship.

"They have done things that have saved American lives," the official said. "But the bottom line is that they are bombing their people out the wazoo in Darfur. Dealing with Sudan, it seems like they are always playing both ends against the middle."

"The [Central Intelligence] agency does not, as a rule, comment on relations with foreign intelligence organizations," said a C.I.A. spokesman, Paul Gimigliano.

Ukec, the Sudanese ambassador, said "the details of what we do in counterterrorism are not available for discussions." But he noted that the U.S. State Department "has openly said we are involved in countering terrorism" and that the assistance that Sudan is

providing "is not only in Sudan."

Ties with Sudan were strengthened shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, when the C.I.A. reopened its station in Khartoum.

In 2005, the C.I.A. sent an executive jet to Sudan to fly the country's intelligence chief, Major General Salah Abdallah Gosh, to Washington for meetings with officials at agency headquarters.

A former official said "there are liaison visits every day" between the C.I.A. and Sudan's intelligence agencies.

Syria has also been accused of being an "established torture contractor for America", for example in the case of the Canadian citizen, Maher Arer who was kidnapped by America and sent to Syria where he was tortured for a whole year with the knowledge of the Americans.

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