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JUNE 1999

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THE BLOODY ASSAULT UP HAMBURGER HILL

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courtesy Atlantic Monthly Press

TERRORISM

Murder, Mayhem and Sniveling Cowards

by Richard L. Sherrow

In the first of a three-part series, *Soldier Of Fortune* examines the violent and murky world of terrorists and terrorism. Terrorism is a relatively new threat to world peace and new laws must be passed immediately to protect us ... *not!* Terrorism isn't new. The concept of terrorism has been around for hundreds of years. What *has* changed are the tools now available to carry out the attacks, and equally, if not more importantly, the means by which the populace learns of the terrorists' actions.

A complete history of international and domestic terrorism would require an encyclopedic endeavor. However, as *Soldier Of Fortune* examines the past, present and future of this phenomenon we call terrorism, we will inspect a representative cross-section of individuals, groups and their areas of operation.

While the definition of what a terrorist is can seem clouded to some, this writer's opinion is very basic: When you attack a foe who can defend himself, you may or may not be considered a freedom fighter or guerrilla. When you murder and maim innocent noncombatants, children, the aged or infirm, you are a terrorist. And a sniveling coward as well.

Terrorism (mis)Defined

When it comes to defining exactly what terrorism is, or what constitutes a terrorist act, disagreement abounds. One end of the spectrum contends that terrorism is directly related to the overthrow of governments. On the other end we find those who would tack a terrorism label onto everyone and everything that doesn't fall into lock step with their own narrow views. In some cases, courts are holding that what was once free speech is now terrorism.

The FBI's latest definition says, "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian populace, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

It may look good on paper, but is the definition so sweeping that it will lay waste



(top) The terrorist: shadowy specter haunting the late 20th century, here in the form of a hooded "Black September" terrorist looking over the balcony at Olympic Village in Munich, during September 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes. Simple dramatic weapons that can cause dramatic results (above, left) have always appealed to terrorists. Bombs are a



favorite: Four people were killed aboard TWA Flight 840 from Rome to Athens in 1986, by a small explosive device placed under seat cushion. (above, right) Individual targets of terrorism are attacked when most vulnerable — often when traveling in a car.

to individual liberties and due process of law, thus creating a police state, under the guise of combating terrorism? That depends on how far authorities are willing to stretch the wording to fit a given circumstance.

Since 1995, special congressional appropriations have given the FBI more than *half a billion* dollars and nearly 2,000 additional personnel slots, all under the new counter-terrorism umbrella. That figure is soon to reach into the billions of dollars. In order to hang onto such windfalls they will be expected to offer up a terrorist headcount. How far will the words "force" or "intimidate" be stretched, not to mention, "or any segment thereof"? And just who is going to set the parameters on "political or social objectives"? With big bucks on the line, we had all better be vigilant of new changes.

And it's not just the feds who are getting financial increases to fight the newly perceived terrorist threat. State and local agencies are also seeing a greening of their coffers. But the same rules will apply. As those in the bounty hunting business say, "no bodies, no booty." In response we are already seeing some pretty loose interpretations as to what constitutes terrorism. Just recently, in a large metropolitan Arizona city, a drunk rammed his pick-up truck against the side of the police station. He was charged with, that latest of buzzwords, "terrorism."

If all this sounds a little cynical, and maybe even a bit paranoid, just look at the ongoing "policing for profit" under the RICO statutes that daily rape and pillage constitutional search and seizure protections, all in the name of the so-called "war on drugs."

Your Hero, Our Terrorist?

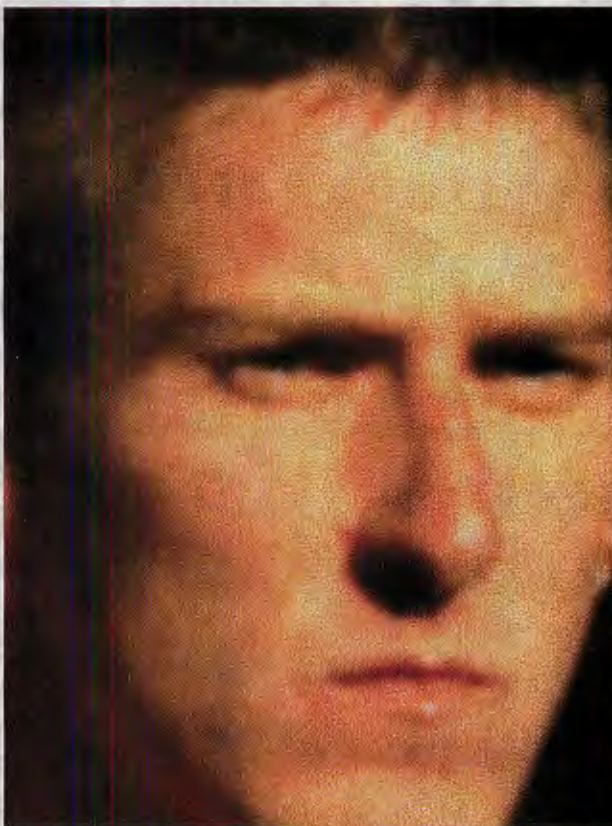
All that said, what does define a terrorist? Could it really be, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter"? It's an old cliché that riles many politicians and terrorism experts. "That's bullshit," they angrily proclaim. "A terrorist," they say, "is simply a terrorist!" Maybe so, but then again it often depends on whose ox is being gored.

In fact, today's terrorist may well be tomorrow's schoolteacher, president, prime minister, or even Nobel laureate. Farfetched? Recent history demonstrates otherwise:

• **Menachem Begin:** In 1946, as a leader of the terrorist group *Irgun*, one of Begin's many violent actions was directing the bombing of British military headquarters in Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Ninety-one people were killed, including 45 Arabs, 28 British soldiers and over a dozen Jews. In 1977, Begin was Prime Minister of Israel. In 1978, he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

• **Nelson Mandela:** In 1988 the United States government listed the socialist African National Congress and its military arm, Mandela's own *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation) as terrorist groups. Supported by, among others, the Soviet Bloc, Cuba and Libya, *Umkhonto we Sizwe* was responsible for years of indiscriminate bombings and murders which left scores of blacks, as well as whites, dead in South Africa and neighboring countries.

In 1990, after serving 27 years in prison for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the South African government, Mandela was released. Immediately he became the dar-



AP/Wide World

The most appalling single act of terrorism on American soil was the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. Timothy McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to death, but his former defense attorney Stephen Jones is convinced there was a broader conspiracy.

ling of the liberal left. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, Mandela went on to be inaugurated president of South Africa the following year.

• **Yasir Arafat (Abu Ammar):** Current president of the Palestinian Authority and winner of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize, Yasir Arafat's dark past follows close behind him. Founder (1957) of *Al Fatah*, the military arm of the PLO, Arafat spread international terrorism far and wide. *Al Fatah* (then known as Black September Organization) is perhaps best known for its 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, which left 11 Israeli athletes dead. Although perceived by many as being strictly anti-Israel, it has been an equal-opportunity terror group. Examples include the 1971 assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi el-Tal, the 1972

attempted attack on Jordanian King Hussein's London residence, and the 1978 attempted assassination of the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations.

• **Angela Davis:** Avowed communist and racist Black Panther Party member, Davis was on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list in the 1970s for her part in the shotgun murder of a California judge and three prisoners during a failed escape attempt. Today, Davis is a professor of History Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

• **Bernardine Dohrn:** During the late '60s and early '70s, Bernardine Dohrn was a leader in the Weather Underground. This leftist-terrorist group was responsible for scores of bombings, armed robberies, and the murder of police officers across the United States. In the '90s Dohrn became co-chair of the American Bar Association's Litigation Task Force on Children.

Reformed, Or Successful?

So, who really knows? Given mankind's tumultuous moral history, is it possible, however ridiculous it may seem now, that today's Osama bin Laden or Timothy McVeigh may be tomorrow's U.N. Secretary General or United States Senator?

Showman Robert Ripley may well have had world politics in mind when he made his lasting observation, "Truth is stranger than fiction." But then again, maybe that other famous showman, P.T. Barnum, had a better handle on it.

Understanding the driving forces behind terrorism is no more difficult than figuring out why wars are fought. Taken to the lowest basic level, somebody's not happy with something. Since there will never be a day when all's right with the world, you need to be aware of why things are, and how to survive in the mine field we call life. Philosophy aside, what are the causal factors of terrorism? The root motivations for terrorism boil down to some very basic factors, which by themselves or combined with any of the others, can light the fuse to disaster:

• **Politics/Ideology:** Governments have consistently waged long and bloody wars for political reasons. In the age of nuclear and advanced chemical/biological weapons, full-scale waging of war "the old fashioned way" could have devastating effects on all sides of a conflict. While it didn't invent terrorism, the former Soviet Union was quick to recognize the long-term benefits of exploiting it. Through its covert, and sometimes not-so-covert, support and guidance of various international terrorist groups, the Soviets were able to inflict costly and burdensome damage on the western powers, while effectively keeping its own skirts clean.

Additionally, smaller countries with grievances, who would stand no chance in a pitched battle against a larger and more powerful foe, found terrorism to be an effective weapon with which David could give Goliath a bloody nose and pretty much get away with it.

- **Religion:** One of the strongest of all violence-producing factors is religious conviction. The long and bloody Crusades pitted Christians against Moslems. The infa-



U.S. Army

August 1970, the group exploded a Ford Econoline van packed with several 55-gallon drums of ANFO (ammonium nitrate-fuel oil) explosive on the University of Wisconsin campus. Their target, Sterling Hall, which housed the U.S. Army Mathematics Research Center, was severely damaged, one postdoctoral student was killed and three others injured.

- **FALN** (*Fuerzas Armadas Liberacion Nacional*) and **Los Macheteros** (*Erjercito*



U.S. Government



Author's Files

amous 1605 Guy Fawkes (Catholic) Gunpowder Plot to blow up King James I (Protestant) and the British Parliament was equally religious. Without a doubt, religious fervor has been a leading cause of more bloodshed than perhaps any other factor in man's history. Look no further than Northern Ireland or the Middle East.

- **Ethnicity:** Simply put, if you don't belong to my tribe, village, race, etc., you are my enemy. I may not be exactly sure why, but I know you are. A quick trip to Africa or the Balkan States, or a dozen other world hot spots will rest the case.

- **Hate:** Last, but not least, good old-fashioned hatred. By itself, or combined with any of the above, hatred has opened many a jugular vein.

Home Front U.S.A.

The bombings of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City turned a page in American history. To most it was the first time that terrorism had reared its ugly head on our shores. Or was it?

Recently I'd quizzed several media acquaintances on terrorism in the good old U.S.A. Oh sure, there was the UNABOMBER, who had begun to take on almost cult status. And maybe some random "right-wing zealot" incidents, but that was all they could think of. When I threw out a few names ... Mark Rudd ... Bernardine Dohrn ... Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, all that came back were blank stares.

In fact, the history of the United States is loaded with cases of domestic terrorism. Want large ANFO (ammonium nitrate-fuel oil) truck bombs blowing up government buildings? We've had 'em. How about hundreds struck down by ter-



Author's Files

rorist, biological agent attack? Had that too. Right, left, and beyond the Twilight Zone, let's look at a small cross-section of our own turbulent history:

- **KKK** (*Ku Klux Klan*): Not content with a long history of racial, religious and ethnically motivated shootings, lynchings, bombings and arsons, the infamous KKK sunk to a new low in September 1963. On a quiet Sunday morning in Birmingham, Alabama, Klansmen detonated a large dynamite bomb under the front steps of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The blast, timed to go off as church services ended, killed four children and injured many more.

- **Weathermen/Weather Underground:** A violent offshoot of the leftist SDS (Students For a Democratic Society), the Weathermen were responsible for more than 40 bombings, arsons and attacks on government agencies and police across the country during the late '60s and early '70s. On 24

(clockwise from top) Red Army Faction attacked Mercedes occupied by U.S. Army Europe commander, Gen. Kroessen, in 1981 with this result. What remained of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon after 1983 truck bombing by elements of *Hezbollah*. The Japanese Red Army, lead by Fusako Shigenobu (aka Marian Fusako Okudaira, Miss Yuki, Haruo Wako) did not limit its attacks to Japan. Nearly every society has produced terrorists since WWII. Colombian M-19 (19th of April Movement) terrorists, armed here with Czechoslovak M-25 and Israeli Uzi, are now part of coalition of groups threatening Colombian stability.

Popular de Boricua — Popular Army of Boricua): During the '70s and '80s both groups fiercely espoused Puerto Rican independence. Operating primarily on the mainland, the FALN or Armed Forces of National Liberation, was the most prolific of all domestic terrorist groups — responsible for well over 100 bombings of political and military targets in the midwest and on the east coast.

Operating mainly in Puerto Rico, the *Macheteros*, or "Machete wielders," declared war on the United States government. In addition to killing U.S. servicemen, the group attacked an Air National Guard base in Puerto Rico in January 1981. Blowing up eight jets and damaging two others, they caused approximately \$40 million in damage. Their 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck depot in Hartford, Connecticut, was one of the largest heists in U.S. history, netting \$7.2 million.

Communist Connections

In an interesting side note, in 1983 and 1985 the *Macheteros* fired M72 LAW rockets into U.S. federal buildings in San Juan.

Tracing determined that the rockets were part of the stores U.S. forces left behind in Vietnam. Further intelligence determined that the LAWs made their way into the Macheteros' hands after being shipped to Cuba by the communist Vietnamese government.

• **JDL (Jewish Defense League):** Founded in New York in 1968 by Rabbi Meir Kahane, the JDL's original goals were to protect orthodox Jews from attacks by street hoodlums. In short order, the group graduated to vandalism, arson, shootings and bombings. Despite its constant denials, law enforcement agencies have tied the JDL

to at least 50 violent acts in its first 20 years of existence. In August 1985, a Boston Police Department bomb squad officer was severely injured while attempting to render safe a suspected JDL bomb planted at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) office in Roxbury, Massachusetts. On 11 October 1985, ADC regional director Alexander Odeh was killed in the explosion of a booby-trapped pipe bomb as he opened the door to his Santa Ana, California, office.

• **Rajneesh Foundation International:** Booted out of his native India in 1981, the

more-than-shady "guru," Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, headed for the United States. Along with a group of followers, he purchased 60,000+ acres of land near the small town of Antelope, Oregon for his "sexually open" commune. Taking advantage of Oregon's lenient voting laws, the Rajneeshes bussed in more than 1,000 homeless derelicts from across the country to "stack" the vote. After taking political control of Antelope, they changed the name to Rajneeshpuram, installed their own

Continued on page 70

Mention the name Ilich Ramirez Sanchez or even pass around his photo and you will receive blank stares in return. Invoke his *nom de guerre*, however, and the lights suddenly snap on. In a world where name recognition counts, Carlos the Jackal rates a 10-plus.

Forty-nine years old, Sanchez, a self-described "professional revolutionary," was born in Caracas, Venezuela. The first-born son of a millionaire Marxist lawyer, his life was a dichotomy from the start.

Carlos the Jackal

At the same time that he professed to be a hard-line Marxist, he was reveling in the good life: wine, women and the "niceties" that money, a ton of money, could buy.

At 17, Carlos headed off to camp, Campo Matanzas that is. Located just outside of Havana, the curriculum at this "camp" was geared less toward basket weaving and sing-alongs and more toward satchel charges and shoot-outs. It was here that he caught the eye of his future KGB handlers.

By 1968, he had moved on to Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, where he was to polish his skills in international hell-raising. Evidently Carlos misunderstood that the hell he was expected to raise was outside of the socialist, fraternal countries because his wild and crazy ways got him expelled for "hooliganism." Despite this, or maybe because of it, he was still a rising star in the eyes of the KGB and Cuban DGI, and would soon form the Organization for Armed Arab Struggle and be recruited by various other terror groups, not the least of which was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Although his actual deeds were often clouded in over-glorifying myth, a few of the many terrorist acts attributed to Carlos the Jackal include:

• **May 1972:** Following Carlos' directions, three Japanese Red Army terrorists attack Lod Airport in Israel. In the ensuing hail of machine-gun fire and grenade fragments, 27 people are killed and 75 wounded.

• **December 1973:** *Euzkadi ta Askatasuna (ETA)*, the Basque separatist group, using explosives supplied by Carlos via the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA/PROVO), employ a buried, remote-control bomb to assassinate Spanish Prime Minister Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, his chauffeur and a security officer, blowing Carrero's car over a five-story building.

• **September 1974:** Again with the assistance of Carlos, the Japanese Red Army seizes the French embassy in The Hague. In exchange for their 11 hostages, the terrorists secure the release of their comrade, Furuya Yukata, \$300,000 and a plane ride to safe haven in Syria.

• **December 1975:** PFLP leader Carlos and his gang of multinational cutthroats storm the Vienna headquarters of OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Within minutes two security guards and an elderly Austrian policeman are gunned down and 70 hostages are taken. Despite orders from his PFLP boss, Wadi Haddad, Carlos fails to carry out the assigned assassination of Saudi Oil Minister Sheik Zaki Yamani.

Although disputed in some circles, Carlos has been linked to a planning role in both the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the 1976 Air France hijacking to Uganda which led to the famous Israeli commando rescue, "Raid on Entebbe." All in all, Carlos has been directly responsible for more than 80 killings and scores of terrorist bombings, kidnappings and murders.

A wanted man by so many for so long, his luck finally ran out. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the world political stage changing acts, Carlos and his loose-cannon ways had become an embarrassment to many of his former mentors.

Some of the details are a bit sketchy, but the final demise of The Jackal follows this trail: Uncomfortable with his presence in that country, Syria's Hafez Assad has Carlos shipped off to Sudan. Then, attempting to curry a bit of U.S. favor, drops a dime on him. Washington, however, worried about possible fallout, slides the coin over to France, who had long wanted the elusive butcher for bombings and mayhem in their backyard.

On 14 August 1994, Carlos is in a Khartoum hospital for a little minor surgery; some say for a "tummy tuck," others maintain the good life had caused a pesky varicose vein to develop in one of his testicles. As he settles in for a little trim, French commandos, (having greased the palms of Sudanese officials), barge in, drug him, stuff his pudgy, Cohiba cigar-smoking butt into a sack, and slap him

on a plane to Paris.

On 23 December 1997, a Paris court finds Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal) guilty of the 1975 murders of French counterintelligence officers Jean Donatini and Raymond Dous, as well as his own former chief aide, Michel Moukharbal.

Sentenced to life in prison, Carlos still faces additional French charges for a string of bombings across Paris and Marseilles. In addition, Germany wants him for bombing the French cultural center in Berlin as does Austria for the OPEC siege.

While not the "super-terrorist" many claim him to be, neither is he the put-upon innocent some leftist journalists portray. There is no doubt that Carlos the Jackal has been there and done that and caused untold misery along the way. Even today he remains outspoken, most recently supposedly staging a hunger strike in support of Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Barring any unforeseen events, Carlos should remain prisoner number 872686X for a long time to come.

—R.L.S.



Author's Files

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal) in his passport photo circa 1975. He now resides in relative luxury in a French jail.