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Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
PO Box 22572, Alexandria, VA 22304-9257 USA

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Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
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NOTE:

THIS IS A DYNAMIC WORKING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
Questions or comments can be directed to Ben Venzke at bvenzke@intelcenter.com or bvenzke@leo.gov. The latest release can be found at <http://www.intelcenter.com>.

OVERVIEW

Early on the morning of 10 Aug. 2006, police in Birmingham, High Wycombe (outside of Heathrow Airport) and London carried out a series of raids and arrests in connection with an upcoming plot to attack nine or more trans-Atlantic flights from the UK to US. The plot consisted of individuals bringing liquid explosives aboard flights, specifically United, American and Continental airlines flights as well as according to one report British Airways flights. The explosives were reportedly to be mixed with Lucozade (a British energy drink) and then detonated using an electronic device. It is believed that the detonations would have been simultaneous or near simultaneous while the flights were over the Atlantic.

The events of 10 Aug. 2006 reportedly came about as a result of an investigation following the arrest of two men in Pakistan. Following months of surveillance and investigations by Pakistani intelligence, MI5 and Scotland Yard, police conducted raids in Birmingham, West Midlands, High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire and Walthamstow in East London. Police in High Wycombe searched King's Wood as well. In all, 24 British nationals, most of Pakistani descent were arrested so far. A British undercover agent reportedly infiltrated the group. US intelligence sources reportedly said the group was within two days (from 10 Aug. 2006) of conducting a dry run/test and then executing the planned attack shortly thereafter but not farther out than two weeks.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
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UK & US THREAT LEVELS

- UK threat level raised by JTAC to CRITICAL at 0200 local time on 10 Aug. 2006
- UK Home Office: “The UK threat level has been increased to critical following the disruption of a major terrorist plot to target UK flights.”
- US threat level for commercial aviation arriving from UK raised to SEVERE (RED), general commercial aviation level in US raised to HIGH (ORANGE)

PAKISTANI ARRESTS

- Two men arrested in Pakistan in Dec. 2005.
- Arrests in Pakistan reportedly led to arrests in UK.
- Up to three people were arrested in Pakistan several days before 10 Aug. 2006 in Lahore and Karachi.
- Of those arrested, two were British nationals. One, Rasheed Rauf was a “key player” and is reported, by Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpo, to have ties with al-Qaeda. He is also the brother of Tayib Rauf who was arrested in the UK on 10 Aug. Rasheed Rauf was arrested in Punjab, Pakistan on 9 Aug. 2006
- On 11 Aug. 2006, police in Bhawalpur, Pakistan arrested 10 more men in connection with the plot.

ARRESTS IN LONDON & OTHER AREAS

- Arrests made over the night of 9/10 Aug. 2006.
- 24 in custody (as of 1831 GMT 10 Aug.)
- All between the ages of 17 to 35.
- Two had recently traveled to Pakistan and reportedly met with al-Qaeda members.
- Two had recorded martyrdom tapes.
- Most of Pakistani descent, British nationals.
- Two may have been Muslim converts.
- One was a young mother.
- An undercover British agent had reportedly infiltrated the group
- One of those arrested worked at Heathrow Airport.
- All being held in London.

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- On 11 Aug. 2006 one of the 24 originally arrested in the UK was released without charge.

BIRMINGHAM RAID

- Early on the morning of 10 Aug. 2006 on Belchers Lane in the Wardsley Green Area of Birmingham in West Midlands, police raided a location which included two vehicles in a backyard area, a office belonging to ACS Management Group and an upstairs apartment.
- One property in the Alum Rock area was raided.
- One property on Saint Margarets Road, in the Ward End area was raided.
- Report of police chasing men through backyards at around 0100 local time on 10 Aug. 2006.
- 20 officers involved in raid (no firearms officers involved), forensic search teams used.
- Office reportedly had regular food deliveries on Fridays for past year
- Security camera reportedly installed on 9 Aug. 2006 at location
- Four arrests made

HIGH WYCOMBE RAID

- Searched four properties in a residential area and wooded area known as King's Wood.
- In one property, located on Walton Drive, people living in duplex were building a new building in the backyard purportedly as a "prayer room", according to Wycombe District Council Member Peter Cartwright.
- People living in the duplex were using it to sell high-end cars and 4x4s, according to Wycombe District Council Member Peter Cartwright.
- Arrests made

EAST LONDON RAID

- Police with firearms raided five locations in Walthamstow at 2350 local time on 9 Aug. 2006.
- One property was located on Forest Road.
- One property was located on Folkestone Road.

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- Two properties were located on Albert Road.
- One property was on Queen's Road, opposite a mosque.

PLOT DETAILS

- Plot involved plan to detonate explosive devices on trans-Atlantic flights from UK to US.
- Airlines targeted include American Airlines, Continental and United. Also new reports that British Airways was also included.
- It was reported that money was transferred from Karachi, Pakistan to England
- Flights headed to New York, DC and California were targeted.
- Plot involved use of liquid explosives brought aboard flights in carry-on baggage.
- Nine or more flights to be simultaneously or near-simultaneously bombed
- Plot was reportedly 2 days away from a dry run/test and the attack reportedly was to follow a few days after
- Around the time of their arrests, plotters were searching the Internet for plane tickets that all matched up to the same time but had not yet purchased them
- Some of the chemicals were to be brought aboard in sports drink bottles
- Teams of at least 2-3 men were assigned to each flight
- After two key individuals were arrested in Pakistan another individual sent a message to plotters in UK saying "Do your attacks now".

MATIUR RAHMAN

- al-Qaeda explosives expert.
- Two members of the group of 24 arrested in UK travelled to Pakistan and met with Rahman.

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ARRESTED INDIVIDUALS

Ibrahim Savant (a.k.a. Oliver Savant)

- Converted to Islam.
- 26 years old
- Arrested on 10 Aug. 2006 in UK.
- Arrested on Folkstone Rd., London.
- Lived on Alkam Road in Stoke Newington
- His wife, Atika Sidyot, was pregnant at the time of the arrest
- Worked as a secretary at a music company called Positive Fokus (as spelled) of Limehouse in East London

Umar Islam (a.k.a. Brian Young)

- Converted to Isalm
- Taxi driver
- Arrested on 10 Aug. 2006 in UK.

Waheed Zaman

- Arrested at his home on Queen's Road, Walthamstow, East London
- Biomedical science student
- Head of Islamic Council at Metropolitan University, London
- Political activist, has authoered articles on Isalm for student publications
- Arrested on 10 Aug. 2006 in UK.

Tayib Rauf

- Arrested in Birmingham
- Brother of Rashid Rauf who was arrested in Punajb, Pakistan on 9 Aug. 2006
- Purchased 54 Belchers Lane from Rashid Rauf in 2004
- Arrested on 10 Aug. 2006 in UK.

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Amin Asmin Tariq

- Arrested on Ravenswood Road, Walthamstow, London
- Employed, for the last three years, as a security officer at Heathrow Airport
- Arrested on 10 Aug. 2006 in UK.

Nabeel Hussain

- Brother of Tanvir and Umair Hussain.

Tanvir Hussain

- Brother of Nabeel and Umair Hussain.

Umair Hussain

- Brother of Nabeel and Tanvir Hussain.

Assad Sarwar

- Brother of Amjad Sawar
- Arrested on 36 Walton Drive, High Wycombe on 10 Aug 2006.
- Married

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
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Amjad Sarwar

- Brother of Assad Sarwar
- Arrested on 36 Walton Drive, High Wycombe on 10 Aug. 2006.

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Abdul Waheed (a.k.a. Don Stewart-Whyte)

- Neighbors identified Waheed as having converted to Islam six months prior
- Arrested at 31 Hepplewhite Close, High Wycombe

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STATEMENT UK HOME SECRETARY JOHN REID ON MORNING OF 10 AUG 2006

Overnight the police, with the full knowledge of Ministers, have carried out a major counter-terrorism operation to disrupt what we believe to be a major threat to the UK and international partners.

The police, acting with the Security Service MI5, are investigating an alleged plot to bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions, causing a considerable loss of life. The police believe the alleged plot was a very significant one indeed.

At 2am this morning the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre raised the UK threat state to its highest level – "Critical". This is now being publicly announced, as I promised to Parliament last month.

This is a precautionary measure. We are doing everything possible to disrupt any further terrorist activity. This will mean major disruption at all UK airports from today. But as far as is possible we want people to go about their business as normal.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
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STATEMENT BY DAC PETER CLARKE, HEAD OF ANTI-TERRORIST BRANCH, 1050 GMT, 10 AUG 2006

I would like to give you some details about the counter terrorist operation, which took place overnight. I shall focus purely on the criminal investigation. As always, I must preface my remarks with a request for restraint - and by that I mean restraint in the reporting of events so far as they relate to those who have been arrested. We must all, please, be careful to say or do nothing that might prejudice the right of any individual to a fair trial.

The investigation has focused on intelligence, which suggested that a plot was in existence to blow up transatlantic passenger aircraft, in flight. The intelligence suggested that this was to be achieved by means of concealed explosive devices smuggled onto the aircraft in hand baggage. The intelligence suggested that the devices were to be constructed in the United Kingdom, and taken through British airports. The number, destination and timing of the flights that might be attacked remain the subject of investigation.

This has been, and continues to be, a fast moving investigation.

Today marks the culmination of one phase of what is a major operation that has already lasted several months, and will undoubtedly last long into the future.

During the investigation an unprecedented level of surveillance has been undertaken and our objective is to gather intelligence and evidence in support of the investigation. We have been looking at meetings, movements, travel, spending and the aspirations of a large group of people. This has involved close co-operation, not only between agencies and police forces in the United Kingdom, but also internationally. As is so often the case in these investigations, the alleged plot has global dimensions.

The investigation reached a critical point last night when the decision was made to take urgent action in order to disrupt what we believe was being planned. As always in these cases, the safety of the public was our overriding concern.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
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Throughout the night a significant number of arrests were made. All the arrests were made on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of Acts of terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2000.

The people arrested remain in custody in London where officers will pursue the investigation from the Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist branch.

Searches are also underway at a number of business and residential premises in London and elsewhere. We anticipate that these will take some time to complete.

I am sure you will understand and realise that this is a very early stage in what will be a meticulous, painstaking criminal investigation. We will now be embarking on the next stage of the investigation, an investigation that will take us wherever the evidence leads. As and when I am able to do so, I will give out information on the progress of the investigation. But please be aware that we will only release specific information when we are sure it is correct. At this very early stage it is not appropriate for me to answer questions. I will give you further information only when I am able and it is appropriate to do so. At this point I must focus on the criminal investigation and any subsequent legal process, and refrain from speculation.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
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**STATEMENT BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PAUL STEPHENSON, 0850
GMT, 10 AUG 2006**

We are confident that we have disrupted a plan by terrorists to cause untold death and destruction and commit mass murder.

The Commissioner has been fully briefed and he is at NSY today. He and I want to pay tribute to officers from the Met's Anti-Terrorist Branch and the security services for the work they have undertaken to disrupt these activities.

We believe that the terrorists' aim was to smuggle explosives onto airplanes in hand luggage and to detonate these in flight.

We also believe that the intended targets were flights from the UK to the USA.

Overnight we have arrested 21 people. The majority of those arrests have been in London but we have also made arrests in Thames Valley and Birmingham. We are currently searching a number of addresses. We are grateful to our colleagues in other force areas for their support. DAC Peter Clarke Head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch will give further details about this part of the operation later this morning.

As the operation got underway we spoke to community leaders to make them aware that a major anti-terrorist operation was taking place but without giving specific details about locations. This extensive dialogue will continue throughout the operation.

We would like to reassure the public that this operation was carried out with public safety upper most in our minds. This is a major operation, which will inevitably be lengthy and complex. The UK is now at the highest possible level of alert. We will consider the threat in its wider sense and take whatever action is necessary to protect people in London and throughout the Country.

Measures have already been put in place to restrict hand luggage taken onto aircraft. This will inevitably cause significant delay and we ask people to remain calm, patient and vigilant at this very difficult time.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
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Put simply this was a plot to commit mass murder on an unimaginable scale.

Statement by Home Secretary John Reid

10 Aug. 2006

Overnight the police, with the full knowledge of Ministers, have carried out a major counter-terrorism operation to disrupt what we believe to be a major threat to the UK and international partners.

The police, acting with the Security Service MI5, are investigating an alleged plot to bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions, causing a considerable loss of life.

The police believe the alleged plot was a very significant one indeed.

At 2am this morning the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre raised the UK threat state to its highest level – "Critical"

This is now being publicly announced, as I promised to Parliament last month.

This is a precautionary measure. We are doing everything possible to disrupt any further terrorist activity.

This will mean major disruption at all UK airports from today.

But as far as is possible we want people to go about their business as normal.

The police will provide an update on the operation later this morning and Ministers will keep the public regularly informed.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
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BRITISH AIRWAYS AUTHORITIES (BAA), 1215 GMT, 10 AUG 2006

Following this morning's police operation, the Department for Transport has asked all UK airports to apply additional security measures designed to ensure passenger safety.

Hand baggage restrictions:

These measures will prevent passengers from carrying hand luggage into the cabin of an aircraft with the following exceptions (which must be placed in a plastic bag):

- pocket size wallets and pocket size purses plus contents (for example money, credit cards, identity cards etc (not handbags));
- travel documents essential for the journey (for example passports and travel tickets);
- prescription medicines and medical items sufficient and essential for the flight (e.g. diabetic kit), except in liquid form unless verified as authentic.
- spectacles and sunglasses, without cases.
- contact lens holders, without bottles of solution.
- for those traveling with an infant: baby food, milk (the contents of each bottle must be tasted by the accompanying passenger) and
- sanitary items sufficient and essential for the flight (nappies, wipes, creams and nappy disposal bags).female sanitary items sufficient and essential for the flight, if unboxed (eg tampons, pads, towels and wipes).
- tissues (unboxed) and/or handkerchiefs
- keys (but no electrical key fobs)
- All passengers must be hand searched, and their footwear and all the items they are carrying must be x-ray screened. Any liquids discovered must be removed from the passenger.

Pushchairs and walking aids must be x-ray screened, and only airport-provided wheelchairs may pass through the screening point. In addition to the above, all passengers boarding flights to the USA and all the items they are carrying, including those acquired after the central screening point, must be subjected to secondary search at the boarding gate. Any liquids discovered must be removed from the passenger.

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STATEMENT FROM MICHAEL CHERTOFF ANNOUNCING CHANGE OF THREAT LEVEL REGARDING AVIATION SECTOR, 10 AUG 2006

The Department of Homeland Security is taking immediate steps to increase security measures in the aviation sector in coordination with heightened security precautions in the United Kingdom. Over the last few hours, British authorities have arrested a significant number of extremists engaged in a substantial plot to destroy multiple passenger aircraft flying from the United Kingdom to the United States. Currently, there is no indication, however, of plotting within the United States. We believe that these arrests have significantly disrupted the threat, but we cannot be sure that the threat has been entirely eliminated or the plot completely thwarted.

For that reason, the United States Government has raised the nation's threat level to Severe, or Red, for commercial flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States. This adjustment reflects the Critical, or highest, alert level that has been implemented in the United Kingdom. To defend further against any remaining threat from this plot, we will also raise the threat level to High, or Orange, for all commercial aviation operating in or destined for the United States. Consistent with these higher threat levels, the Transportation Security Administration is coordinating with federal partners, airport authorities and commercial airlines on expanding the intensity of existing security requirements. Due to the nature of the threat revealed by this investigation, we are prohibiting any liquids, including beverages, hair gels, and lotions from being carried on the airplane. This determination will be constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant. These changes will take effect at 4:00 AM local time across the country. Travelers should also anticipate additional security measures within the airport and at screening checkpoints.

These measures will continue to assure that our aviation system remains safe and secure. Travelers should go about their plans confidently, while maintaining vigilance in their surroundings and exercising patience with screening and security officials.

The United States and the United Kingdom are fully united and resolute in this effort and in our ongoing efforts to secure our respective homelands.

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
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Press Conference with Michael Chertoff, Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, TSA Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley, FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Good morning. I would like to provide you with the latest information that we have on recent events in the United Kingdom, and an update on the actions that we are taking to protect our citizens and to keep air travel safe and secure.

As you are aware, British authorities have arrested at least 21 extremists, alleged to have engaged in a plot to detonate liquid explosives onboard multiple commercial aircraft departing from the United Kingdom and bound for the United States. This plot appears to have been well planned and well-advanced, with a significant number of operatives. The terrorists planned to carry the components of the bombs – including liquid explosive ingredients and detonating devices – disguised as beverages, electronic devices, and other common objects.

While the operation was centered in Britain, we believe it was international in scope.

We believe that the arrests in Britain have significantly disrupted this threat. We cannot assume, however, that it has been completely thwarted, or that we have fully identified and neutralized all members of this terrorist network.

While there is currently no indication of any plotting within the United States, the federal government is taking immediate steps to increase security measures in the aviation sector.

First, the United States Government has raised the nation's threat level to our highest level of alert, Severe or Red, for commercial flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States. This adjustment coordinates our alert level with the Critical, or highest, alert level that has been implemented in the United Kingdom.

Further, as a precaution against any loose ends in the plot, and against any would-be copy-cats who may be inspired to conduct similar attacks, we will also raise the threat level to High, or Orange, for all domestic commercial aviation and for flights arriving in the United States from overseas.

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More specifically, in light of the nature of the liquid explosive devices designed by the plotters, we are temporarily banning all liquids as carry-ons in the cabin. No liquids or gels will be allowed in carry-on baggage. They must be checked. We will make exceptions for baby formula and medicines, but be prepared to present these items for inspection at the checkpoint. This will allow us to make adjustments to our screening tactics based on what we learn from this investigation.

In general, packing lightly and minimizing clutter will do a great deal to make the screening process easier and faster.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be implementing a series of security measures – some visible and some not visible -- to ensure the security of the traveling public and the Nation's transportation system.

TSA is immediately implementing changes to airport screening procedures to prevent liquids or gels of any kind in carry-on baggage. The Federal Air Marshals Service (FAMS) will provide expanded mission coverage for flights from the United Kingdom to the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will increase enforcement efforts in international arrival areas including the use of advanced targeting tools, special response teams including baggage and aircraft search teams, baggage x-ray equipment, specially-trained canine units, and explosive detection technology. These measures will be constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant.

We recognize that these measures are inconvenient. But they are proportionate to the very real threat to the lives of innocent people. What is important is that we are taking every prudent step to thwart new tactics of terror.

Today, air traffic is safe. Air traffic will remain safe, precisely because of the measures we are implementing today.

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As always, the American public should remain aware, and report any activity they deem suspicious to local authorities or other appropriate law enforcement agencies.

The American public can be assured that the United States Government is doing everything in its power, under the leadership of President Bush, and in cooperation with our British allies, to defend our nations. We will continue to provide updates throughout the day as appropriate, and now I'd like to turn to Attorney General Gonzales.

BANK OF ENGLAND NEWS RELEASE – NAMING 19 OF THE ARRESTED INDIVIDUALS – 11 AUG 2006

FINANCIAL SANCTIONS: TERRORIST FINANCING

This news release is issued in respect of the financial measures taken against terrorism.

The Bank of England, as agent for Her Majesty's Treasury, has today directed that any funds held for or on behalf of the individuals named in the Annex to this News Release must be frozen, and that no funds should be made available, directly or indirectly to any person, except under the authority of a licence.

Financial institutions and other persons are requested to check whether they maintain any accounts or otherwise hold any funds, other financial assets, economic benefits and economic resources for the individuals named in the Annex and, if so, they should freeze the accounts or other funds and report their findings to the Bank of England.

The names in the Annex are in addition to those listed in previous Bank Notices containing directions under Article 4 of the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/3365) and under Article 8 of the Al-Qa'ida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/111, as amended).

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Previous Notices and news releases related to Terrorism, Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban and a consolidated list of individuals and entities subject to these and other UK financial sanctions regimes are available from the Financial Sanctions pages of the Bank of England's website: <http://bankofengland.co.uk/publications/financialsanctions/index.htm>.

11 August 2006

ANNEX

FINANCIAL SANCTIONS: TERRORIST FINANCING

Individuals

1. ALI, Abdula, Ahmed

DOB: 10/10/1980

Address: Walthamstow, London, United Kingdom

2. ALI, Cossor

DOB: 04/12/1982

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

3. ALI, Shazad, Khuram

DOB: 11/06/1979

Address: High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom

4. HUSSAIN, Nabeel

DOB: 10/03/1984

Address: London, United Kingdom, E4

5. HUSSAIN, Tanvir

DOB: 21/02/1981

Address: Leyton, London, United Kingdom, E10

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
PO Box 22572, Alexandria, VA 22304-9257 USA

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6. HUSSAIN, Umair

DOB: 09/10/1981

Address: London, United Kingdom, E14

7. ISLAM, Umar

DOB: 23/04/1978

Address: High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom

8. KAYANI, Waseem

DOB: 28/04/1977

Address: High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom

9. KHAN, Assan, Abdullah

DOB: 24/10/1984

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

10. KHAN, Waheed, Arafat

DOB: 18/05/1981

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

11. KHATIB, Osman, Adam

DOB: 07/12/1986

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

12. PATEL, Abdul, Muneem

DOB: 17/04/1989

Address: London, United Kingdom, E5

13. RAUF, Tayib

DOB: 26/04/1984

Address: Birmingham, United Kingdom

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
PO Box 22572, Alexandria, VA 22304-9257 USA

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14. SADDIQUE, Muhammed, Usman

DOB: 23/04/1982

Address: Walthamstow, London, United Kingdom, E17

15. SARWAR, Assad

DOB: 24/05/1980

Address: High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom

16. SAVANT, Ibrahim

DOB: 19/12/1980

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

17. TARIQ, Amin, Asmin

DOB: 07/06/1983

Address: Walthamstow, London, United Kingdom, E17

18. UDDIN, Shamin, Mohammed

DOB: 22/11/1970

Address: Stoke Newington, London, United Kingdom

19. ZAMAN, Waheed

DOB: 27/05/1984

Address: London, United Kingdom, E17

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
PO Box 22572, Alexandria, VA 22304-9257 USA

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PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS RELEASE – 11 AUG 2006

P.R. No. 272/2006
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Office of the Spokesperson)
PRESS RELEASE

The uncovering and foiling of the terrorist plot in London has been the result of active cooperation among the intelligence agencies of Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States. The Cooperation in this case was spread over a period of time. Acting on the information earlier received from the United Kingdom, arrests were made in Pakistan which triggered arrests on the nights between 9th and 10th August 2006 in the United Kingdom. A key person arrested is British national Rashid Rauf. There are indications of Afghanistan based Al-Qaeda connection. The case has wider international dimensions. These coordinated arrests underscore the very important role that has been played by Pakistan in breaking this international terrorist network. The intelligence cooperation and coordination at the international level to get to the bottom this case are continuing. These efforts are in keeping with Pakistan's strong commitment to fight international terrorism.

Islamabad
11 August 2006

Voice: (703) 370-2962 Fax: (703) 370-1571
Email: info@intelcenter.com Web: www.intelcenter.com
PO Box 22572, Alexandria, VA 22304-9257 USA

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