



GPN GENOCIDE PREVENTION NOW

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Two Mosques in Pakistan of Minority Muslim Religion are Assaulted by Gunmen and Suicide Bombers in Coordinated Attacks

Breaking Story

News Report with a GPN Editorial Note

Two Mosques in Pakistan are Assaulted by Gunmen and Suicide Bombers

Gunmen and suicide bombers stormed two mosques belonging to a minority sect of Ahmadi believers during Friday prayer in Lahore, seizing hostages. The attack killed at least 70 worshipers and wounded 78, the city coordinating officer said. Ahmadi believers, a Muslim religion, is severely discriminated against under Pakistani law. Pakistan does not recognize the Ahmadi sect as part of Islam. At one mosque, dozens of men survived by hiding in the basement. The attacks, which took place within minutes of each other at the mosques are located a few kilometers apart.

Source: Perlez, Jane and Gillani, Waqar (May 28, 2010). Dozens die as 2 mosques in Pakistan are attacked. Global NYTimes.com
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/29/world/asia/29pstan.html?ref=islam>

GPN Editorial Note

On Contemporary Genocidal Terrorism against Two Muslim Mosques and on Man's Instincts for both Genocidal Killing and Goodness

The above story of suicide bombings in a way is nothing more than another of the endless reports coming out of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq; not long ago from Sri Lanka and Israel; periodically from the U.S. although many Americans do not realize that there were reports that 9/11 was a part of a grand series of coordinated multiple suicide bombing attacks; the UK, Moscow; Indonesia, and many other places. It was such endless suicide bombings on which I reported in my 2007 book, *Fighting Suicide Bombing: A Worldwide Campaign for Life*.^{1 2}

So why bother to report the present story if nothing is really new? We think for several reasons:

1. Periodically we need to stop to look at suicide bombing as the new methodology of transnational genocidal terrorism - one which has the greatest threat potential to the future of our puny civilization if and when the devout will use Weapons of Mass Destruction – as many security agencies and many novelists very much *and terrifyingly* predict.
2. This is a story of the evolving methodology and skill of genocidal terrorists in coordinated attacks that combine gunmen and suicide bombers.
3. This story illustrates a point made so clearly by German scholar, Gunnar Heinsohn elsewhere in this issue: the overwhelming majority of Muslims are killed by Muslims.
4. For a long time now, attacks take place "anywhere" - one favorite site is places of worship like mosques, others are even hospitals and medical clinics, and of course schools, and there are always markets, public places, transportation vehicles on land, in the air and on the seas. Geneva Conventions regarding warfare against civilians? Our modern world has regressed and there are no conventions.
5. The Muslims who were attacked belong to a minority sect, the Ahmadi, who 'only' number some two million people. They are bitterly hated, disparaged and persecuted by establishment Muslims. The point is that if we go around the globe we can list hundreds of religions, sects, ethnicities, tribes, nationalities, language groups and more who are earmarked for being dehumanized in their surroundings as worthless, inferior, disgusting and diseased, even as they are also identified as a supreme danger to the continued existence of the community and people among whom they live.

In my work with Chanan Rappaport on the development of a Genocide Early Warning System, we identified this couplet of dehumanization and attribution of power to destroy and exterminate as the single most frequent and virulent synergy of dynamics which bring about and enable genocide to occur.³ I call this "universal antisemitism," in the larger sense that what is notoriously regarded as antisemitism against the Jews - today often disguised as or concealed within otherwise possibly legitimate critiques of Israel -- is in fact a special manifestation of a worldwide disease that, in my judgment, is built into human biology and nature: a need to hold another and others responsible for, or to make them the victims of, our wrongness, errors, limitations, moral failures, weaknesses and the oncoming death of our lives.

My sense is that this is the instinctual substrate of genocide and a major reason why so many beautiful human efforts to improve our human condition and society nonetheless fail so grandly. Predictably with weapons of mass destruction and a large population,

the number of human beings who will die of genocide in the 21st century will be greater than the awful number Rummel gives for the 20th century.⁴

Nonetheless, I add that the fact that projecting our weaknesses and inevitable deaths is instinctually built in to us does not mean human beings cannot overcome this loop quite creatively and successfully – owing also to other wonderful instinctual resources that are also built into our human nature of savoring life, fighting to stay alive, joy in nurturing other lives, and qualities of empathy, compassion, caring, love and justice.

So the above recent case history of contemporary genocidal murder needs for us not only to say 'tsk, tsk' but to fight back for life.

-- Israel W. Charny

Reference Notes

¹ Charny, Israel W. (2009). *Fighting Suicide Bombing: A Worldwide Campaign for Life*. New York: Praeger Security International. Reprinted by 3 publishers in India and Sri Lanka, in which I published for the first time and discussed extensively a concept of "transnational genocidal terrorism." To the best of my memory I had first formulated and presented this concept in December 2001, clearly following 9/11, in a lecture at Portland State University, "Genocide Denial: The Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and Other Genocides."

² An excellent discussion of genocidal terrorism will be found in an article by Dan Izenberg in the *Jerusalem Post* for which we are pleased to present a link. Note that the article moves into a discussion of Israel's policies in Gaza which may interest some readers in its own right, but is not the point for us here. The clarification of genocidal terrorism which is the first part of the article is a very worthwhile read: Izenberg, Dan (March 28, 2008). What we're facing is 'genocidal terror.' *Jerusalem Post*. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-151177488.html>

³ Charny, Israel W. (1982). In collaboration with Chanan Rappaport. Toward a Genocide Early Warning System. Chapter in *How Can We Commit the Unthinkable? Genocide, The Human Cancer* (pp. 283-331). Boulder, CO; Westview Press, (Book reprinted in paperback by Hearst in 1983, and in Portuguese in Brazil by Editions Record; chapter has been reprinted many times in a variety of publications).

The concept of a Genocide Early Warning System was presented here for the first time in a major book publication. The concept was widely hailed as innovative and important, including by the *New York Times*, the United Nations, the U.S. State Department and a number of heads of governments.

In a larger perspective of the emergence of publications on genocide, the ultimate classic in genocide publications is, of course, the seminal work of Raphael Lemkin as World War Two comes to an end in the book in which he first offers the world the new word-concept of "genocide": Lemkin, Raphael (1944). *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Following his work I know only of one major book publication on genocide, and that appears a good decade later by Dutch jurist, Pieter Drost who strongly criticized the omission of political and other groups from the UN definition of genocide: Drost, Pieter (1959). *The Crime of State*. 2 vols. Leyden: A. W. Sythoff.

To the best of my knowledge a good number of years then pass without significant publications until three major books appear in 1976, 1981, and 1982. The first is by sociologist Irving Louis Horowitz in 1980 who explores the nexus between genocide and the organization of government. The next is the seminal work on genocide, also by a sociologist, the beloved doyen of genocide studies in its earliest years, Leo Kuper, who publishes his book in England in 1981 and in the USA in 1982. The third work is by me, a psychologist, on the psychology of genocide in respect each of victims, bystanders, and perpetrators, and in respect of the psychology of collective behavior as well as individual psychology, and with the above proposal for a Genocide Early Warning System.

The three of us – Horowitz, Kuper, and Charny – are then invited *together* to the international meeting of Amnesty International in Amsterdam in 1982 to present the concept of genocide which was not being included in the range of human rights violations with which Amnesty concerned itself. Now, in effect, a new field of genocide studies has been launched, and in June 1982 the First International Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide took place in Tel Aviv.

The continuation of the story at that point is that Amnesty's great Secretary-General, Martin Ennals, who had led the organization through its first years to achieve Nobel-Prize status, came to the conclusion that Amnesty must also treat genocide, but he was not able to bring the organization around to his point of view. Ennals then resigns and assumes the modest position of Director-General of a completely new organization which Leo Kuper has conceived and helps organize in the UK, International Alert. Unfortunately, Martin Ennals does not live long enough to see the organization through to real development and over the years International Alert fades. Horowitz's and Kuper's books are as follows:

Horowitz, Irving Louis (1980). *Taking Lives: Genocide and State Power*. 3rd ed. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books. First edition 1976.

Kuper, Leo (1981). *Genocide: Its Political Use in the Twentieth Century*. London. Penguin, US publication 1982: New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

⁴ Rummel, R.J. ((1997). *Statistics of Genocide: Genocide and Mass Murder since 1900*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers. For some time Rummel gave an estimated figure of about 180 million people dying from genocide and mass murder in the 20th century. More recently he revised his figure upward to 260 million, with a significant part of the increase 'credited' to new information about the tortuous killing of Chinese by Mao-tse-Tung.