

Inside the Mind of a Young Suicide Bomber

Subject: Intel- NDS News Conferance

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ALCON,

NDS Spokesperson Lutfullha Mashal held his third news conference in as many weeks today at NDS. The ninety minute news conference took on the appearance of a courtroom. Four suspects in orange prison jumpsuits testified to reporters about their involvement in recent suicide incidents and/or the planning for attacks. One of the suspects was Mohammed Khan, 33 years-old, arrested in helping to plan the attack on the Finest Supermarket in Kabul. The other three were arrested for planning attacks in Maidan Wardak PRT and one on Jalalabad Road near Camp Phoenix. The event was heavily covered by both international and Afghan media. Below are our notes on the event.

BLUF:

1. One of the suspects who testified was 48 year-old Gulam Faruq. He was recruited at Haj in Saudi Arabia six years ago.
2. The youngest suspect, Mohammad Ullha is 17 years old. He denied his involvement was for money. He described being fitted for a suicide vest and thanked God for being arrested before carrying out his attack.
3. All four suspects were recruited while in Pakistan.

National Directorate of Security
News Conference
Spokesperson Lutfullha Mashal
February 10, 2011

Opening Statement

In the name of God. Dear journalists. Today we have an unexpected news conference. We will be covering two topics:

First, the suicide attack on Finest Supermarket. NDS arrested 5 people involved in terrorism in Kabul and Madian Wardak. You have been asking about this incident. Two people who were involved will be here in this room today.

The first person, Mohammad Khan, 33 years old. He is a resident of Kabul. He transported the suicide attacker from Pakistan to Kabul. They spent the night in a hotel the night before the

attack. He had information that there were going to be two French citizens in the supermarket. He confessed to 27 terrorist activities.

The second person was Talab Jan, 45 years old. He is still in jail and will not be here today. For three years he has been in prison. In the prison, he organized the suicide attacks from his cell. Most of the attacks were in Kabul, he was responsible. Khan confessed to all the crimes. He stated that he was recruited by the group. Every 15 days he had a visitor to the prison. They traveled to gather information. His visitors were passing all the information.

On the Finest Supermarket attack, the first information we had is that the group wanted to attack the chief of Blackwater. After the investigation, the suspect confessed targeting two French citizens.

Suspect enters the news conference

Mohammad Khan, 33 years old speaks: In the name of God. My name is Mohammad Khan. Unintelligible. I did a lot of terrorism in the past. About the one at the Supermarket, there were two people who asked for my help. I called the person. They wanted to stage an attack against the government. I told them I would help. Then I met them. They told me to come at 10:00 in the morning to meet with the rest of the group. We talked about this attack. The commander of the Taliban was at the meeting. They asked the time to attack. We stayed there three nights. Two of us. The other guy was the suicide attacker. Then we went to Khost Hotel in District 8. We spent the night before traveling in the city. We stayed in Khost Hotel until 8. At 2 AM we met again. The

following day, we met again. On Thursday night, we spent the night. The other guy-suicide attacker-was there too. He said we are targeting the foreigners. He went back to the city to find out more. He said the target was in the neighborhood. He said there would be foreigners there. Around 10 PM we went back to the house. At 3 AM, he called me and asked, "how can we do this." We talked about. They said we would do the attack on Friday afternoon. After that attack, I was arrested by NDS and the officials. I regret my involvement in this attack. I am asking all the Afghan government and ministers and the people of Afghanistan for forgiveness and I am sorry. In the future, I will never do this type of thing. I am very shameful.

Reporters ask the suspect questions:

1. You say that you got information from government officials and Taliban?

No, the guy was a Taliban. The guy was working with someone who had information about the foreigners...and the French citizens.

2. How did you get arrested and if you knew about attack, why did you help?

I told them I would gather information. But when I entered into Afghanistan, they told me to gather information. I gathered information. They told me to get the information through the phone. That was around 3 AM when I got the information about the French people. I got arrested at 9PM.

3. You knew the guy was a suicide attacker?

I didn't have my hands in the attack. I got paid \$300 dollars. He gave you this money? I took the money for release of French journalists. (This is a separate incident being described.) (Mashal: we are not going to talk about the French journalists.) I came here for release of two French journalists.

4. You are saying the suspect had ties with a government official?

When I came to Kabul, I called the person. I told them about the French people. We met on Thursday night.

Mashal: (attempting to explain some of the suspect's answers) this guy is not the suicide attacker. He was involved in the attack. He was talking about a separate incident about two French journalists. The attack was against two French citizens.

Mashal resumes his opening statement:

Second, we are talking about two insurgents working in Kabul. We captured a group of 5 suspects in Kabul and Wardak. Three of them were involved in the staging of attacks.

The first suspect is 48 years old. He is the leader of the group, like Mafia. He was a hidden leader. He came to Kabul. The second suspect is 45 years old. He is a resident of Kabul. This person kept suspects in his house. He organized and staged the attack in his house at night. He helped put together all the suicide vests. The third suspect is 17 years old. He is a resident of Khost. The group tried to stage attack on a PRT in Maidan Wardak. The second incident planned was on Jalalabad Road near Camp Phoenix. During the investigation the suspect was recruited at the Haj while in Saudi Arabia. Once NDS went to the house, they seized weapons, explosive materials, six hand grenades, wigs and face masks.

Suspect enters the news conference.

Mohammad Ullha, 17 years old speaks. In the name of God. I am from Khost and Logar. I was trying to be someone. I wanted to get some religious studies. I went to get some religious studies. I then went to Pakistan to get a military education. It was a small district. I studied. I was going back and forth to my home. While I studied, one guy came to me. He invited me to the bazaar. There were Taliban there. There was a small room. We went and sat in the room with suicide attackers. They gave some incidents. I swear I stayed the night. Then we went back to Pakistan. There was a guy who you can stay here a little while. We started meeting different people with different names. They went to a house and spent the night. We lived in that house. They brought the suicide vests. They showed how the vest operates and the explosives in it. They fit in my body. There is a switch on one of the arms. There is another switch. If one switch does not work, you can use the other one. It is on the explosives. The vest fits around your body and arms pits. Fits all the way around your body. Then they trained us how to use the vest. Then they trained us on how to use the hand guns and machine guns. Then we went to

Kandahar and spent the night. The person was going to come to interview. Thanks God that I got arrested and did not die. (laughter.)

Mashal: what do you want to say to people of Afghanistan?

All I need to say is that I am sorry and very regretful. I am very happy to get caught and escape from the dead. When we did the investigation, we found that the suspects were given an injection with drugs that motivated them to do attacks. The bottom line is that these suspects did not do this for money. They did it for their cause.

Reporters ask questions of the suspect.

1. Did your father give him money to go to Pakistan?

My wish is to go to school and study for five years. I did not get the right education. When I got training, they said there were foreigners in Kabul. There were four or five people in different groups.

2. If you get released from NDS, where will you go, back to get a religious education?

I want to learn inside of Afghanistan and get education. Unintelligible

3. The people inside the religious school, all of them are trained to be suicide attackers?

There are different schools. Pakistani people were there. Taliban chooses specific people.

Suspect enters the news conference.

Lal Mohammad, 20 years old speaks: I am from Kandahar. I was introduced to one person. I was recruited. They showed us video of foreigners in fight with Afghan forces. They showed us the video of Taliban fighting foreigners. That's why I joined: to fight. I wish I go back to my house and do my thing.

Reporters ask questions

1. Who recruited you? Did you get money?

I did not do for money. Did it for feelings inside me.

Another suspect enters room. Gulam Faruq, 48 years old was a facilitator of Taliban. He kept the suicide attackers at his house.)

Suspect enters the news conference.

Gulam Faruq, 48 years old, speaks: unintelligible. I was recruited. We stayed in a couple of houses here and there. I stayed in one house. I did a very bad thing. Unintelligible. I did this because of money.

Reporters ask questions:

1. *Did you recruit? I did not recruit.*

They sent people to me from Pakistan.

2. *Were you willing to send your own son?*

No I wouldn't send my son to do this.

3. *Who sent these people? Were you getting money?*

I did this for money. The people were sent from Pakistan.

4. *How did you stage ties with this group?*

Six years ago, I got recruited at Haj in Saudi Arabia. I started this plan in summer of this year.

5. *You say you are a Muslim and went to Haj. This is against all Islam. It is not Islam?*

I am very regretful that I did this. I ask the government to forgive me.

Suspect enters the news conference.

Sayed Momen, 32 years old speaks: I got recruited by the other person. I was a driver. There were three people. We ate at night. We met. They brought three suicide attackers. We spent a few nights there. The other people, I don't know what happened to them. They came from Kandahar. They wanted to go to Kabul. They gave me 3 AK 47s. I got caught in my own village. I was a poor guy. I was working. I ask for forgiveness.

Reporters ask questions:

1. *How many times prior to this did you take in such a group?*

No this was my first time.

2. *Why were you keeping these people?*

I won't do this again if they release me. They gave me false information. They did not give me any money. I don't know anything about their plans. I do not know anything about their ties. We did not know the other two people. They talked about jihad.

3. *Did you see any Taliban?*

I did not see any. Before, I was a driver. They told me to do this. They brainwashed me.

Mashal returns to the podium: I want to clarify a few things. These were two separate incidents. One was in regard to French journalists. The suspect went to Pakistan to ask about the journalists. But they gave him a new task: to stage an attack on Kabul.

Questions & Answers

1. *What about the other suspect?*

He is very a disturbed person and is not regretful. I did not want to bring him in here.

2. One of these suspects was in prison. How did he communicate with his group from inside a cell?

He was doing this through his visitors. Visitors would come, and they would take the information.

3. It looks like these suspects had ties to Pakistan. What is NDS doing about this?

We have laws existing in this country. We as NDS, we do the preliminary investigation. Once the complete the investigation, we turned the suspect over to the judicial system. Once they have our investigation, they act accordingly. So, the terroristic activities also happen in Pakistan. These acts are happening all over including Pakistan, where it is happening more. Pakistan is suffering from this too. The two main groups including Haqqani are radical groups. We don't know how they are financed.

4. Unintelligible Question?

Most of our operations are done by security forces.

5. On the peace and reconciliation process. Some are getting help from the Taliban do you know?

Most of the tribal people are getting killed by Taliban. Because these people are helping the government and giving information, they need to take their security seriously. NDS does not take the security responsibility for every citizen, so they have to protect themselves.

6. Are you going to turn these suspects over to Peace and Reconciliation or Judicial system?

Peace does not mean bringing all enemies and make them a part of this. These people will be sent to prison. These suspects are criminals. We will make peace with the people who come forwarded and have regrets.

7. What do these arrests indicate?

The ANA is strong. NDS is very strong. We have presence in every district and village. The enemy is weak and is running from all the forces.