

Who are Britain's jihadists- Open sourced BBC article link. 4/4/17

[REDACTED]

Aqsa Mahmood

Age when left UK: 20

Hometown: Glasgow

•

[Aqsa Mahmood's parents ask her to come home to Glasgow](#)

In September 2015 the UK government asked the United Nations to impose a travel ban on her and freeze her assets, pointing to the fact that she had posted online images of executions and a message to the West saying "your countries will be destroyed [and] blood will be spilled".

Extract from Cabinet Secretary for Justice briefing document. 2016

Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill

Purpose

1. Following our discussions last week, you asked for further background and analysis on points of contention on the measures contained in the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill to support your consideration around potential required Legislative Consent Motions.

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

1. Police Scotland has echoed support for the broader question of Extra Territorial Jurisdiction as they are seeing more individuals, who are likely to travel overseas, expressing support or encouraging extremism while within other jurisdictions. Whilst the expectation is they may not intend to return to UK we would suggest that it is important that individuals cannot escape the consequences of their actions overseas before the UK Courts. A number of the behaviours exhibited by Aqsa Mahmood, for instance, would be prosecuted under this extended legislation were she to attempt to return.

JABS - Press Summary - applications from women - Wednesday 11th March 2015

[Redacted]

To see below re JABS.

Regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 11 March 2015 10:19

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



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To: DG Learning & Justice; [Redacted]
Subject: Press Summary - Wednesday 11th March
Good morning Cabinet Secretary/ Minister,
[REDACTED]

In other news, the Herald and the Scotsman carry coverage of the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland report into increasing applications from women, and there is a good feature piece of the first prospective female FBU candidate.

Finally, widespread coverage of comments made by Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley at the Commons Home Affairs Committee stating that Glasgow-born Aqsa Mahmood would likely face prosecution under terrorism offences should she return to the UK from Syria.

Please let me know if you'd like more information on any of the stories above.

Kind regards, [Redacted]
[Redacted]

CONTEST Assurance Group: briefing note- 27/4/16

Background

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 6. Composite Case Study

5. You will recall that this has been discussed at previous CAGs. Significant progress has been made but it is not a straightforward agenda item. Its origins lie in a desire to fully understand the case of Aqsa Mahmood, the young woman from Glasgow who travelled to join Daesh in Syria. It has not been possible to draw together all the elements of her story into a case study as some facts remain unknown and there have been recent complications caused by a terrorism trial at the Old Bailey and subsequent comments in the media by Aqsa Mahmood's family. Police Scotland will instead provide an update on the work done to date to draw out, from a series of case studies, those elements of best practice (or missed opportunity) that partners might find useful as they engage further in Prevent and consider the implications of the Prevent duty imposed by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. SPVEU have used these case studies in a variety of meetings and they have been unanimously well received by partners.

[REDACTED]

SPVEU
April 2016

Equality Human rights and third sector operational note Mon 22 February 2016

In attendance:

[Redacted]

Hot issues/ Media

- **Preventing Violent Extremism** – [REDACTED] noted the conviction of man linked to Aqsa Mahmood and Syria. In the Sunday Mail the parents of Aqsa Mahmood talked about the online grooming of their daughter and the risk of radicalisation by Islamist fanatics. Roshni held an event last year linking child sex exploitation and radicalisation.
- **[REDACTED]**

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Extracts from emails regarding a Home Office Permanent Secretary visiting Scotland 2014

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 October 2014 10:51

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Home Office Permanent Secretary visiting Scotland
[REDACTED]

I have not received a report on the community consultation event from Police Scotland but [REDACTED] attended and will be able to brief us later.

Having spoken to several officers who attended the event, I have picked up on the following feedback: The case of Aqsa Mahmood was widely discussed, including by those willing to identify themselves to the police as her friends.

The perception is that she is very much a victim, a young girl who has made a very bad decision and now needs to be helped to return to Scotland (at worst).

The community is opposed to some of the measures being proposed, particularly in relation to stripping UK nationals who have travelled to join ISIL of their passports: they do not see how this can help Aqsa Mahmood or others like her.

The communities' perception is that radicalisation is taking place outside institutional frameworks.

There is an increase in community activity but not in community tension.

Grant will also be able to update us on the latest hate crime figures.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 September 2014 14:46

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Home Office Permanent Secretary visiting Scotland

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I have discussed possible ideas for the Permanent Secretary's visit to Glasgow next week.

We could set up a Prevent-themed visit to a project in Glasgow (probably a women's group, though given the time frame you will appreciate that this will largely depend who is around and there is some flexibility) whose members took part in a Police Scotland engagement event last weekend (14 September).

This was a community consultation event planned some months ago to engage with representatives from across Scotland's Muslim communities to consult on global affairs; how they impact on communities in Scotland and what more Police Scotland could do to support affected communities. There was an invited audience of around 100 participants, predominantly Sunni but also including Shia groups. The timing of the consultation meant that discussion inevitably focussed on recent events that have impacted on Scotland, namely the identification in the media of Aqsa Mahmood (a young Scottish female from Glasgow who travelled to join ISIS in Syria) and the tragic murder of the hostage David Haines.

The visit would give Perm Sec an opportunity to hear first-hand from community members about their perceptions of Prevent and how it sits within the Police Scotland model of community engagement which is so central to the success of Prevent delivery in Scotland. SPVEU officials and Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit would facilitate and accompany.

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Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

BRIEFING NOTE FOR FIRST MINISTER Glasgow Central Mosque and Islamic Centre - Briefing - September 2014

[REDACTED]

There has been **no reported rise in community tensions** following the publication of Aqsa Mahmood's story. There has, however, been an increase in community activity. For example, the Islamic Society of Britain (Glasgow) has organised a public event on Saturday 13th September facilitating members of the community to attend and discuss the current events with a panel. Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit has been invited to take part and will provide a member of the panel.

[REDACTED]



Communications – Media Services 2016

Media Monitoring Unit

[REDACTED]

Police: Jihadi bride will be arrested if she returns to UK The Scottish woman (Aqsa Mahmood) who travelled to Syria to become a "jihadi bride", and is suspected of recruiting three London schoolgirls to Islamic State (Isis), will be prosecuted if she returns to Britain, claims a senior Scotland Yard officer (Mark Rowley). H1, Sun17, DMail1&4;

[REDACTED]

Culture, Europe and External Affairs

Family anguish at jihad grooming The family of a Scottish student, Aqsa Mahmood, who secretly travelled to Syria to join Islamic extremists have told how their teenage daughter was brainwashed by a fanatic she planned to marry. SM8; Times21; DMail12

[REDACTED]

Counter Terrorism and Prevent - FMQ Briefing – [REDACTED] 19 February 2015

Background

What is the Scottish Government's role in counter terrorism

The Scottish Government takes seriously its responsibilities in keeping the people of Scotland safe and secure and making Scotland a safe place to do business. Whilst counter-terrorism policy is owned by the UK Government, counter terrorism in Scotland is mainly delivered by Scottish bodies and agencies with the support of UK colleagues.

We have seen incidents both abroad, such as in Algeria in 2013 and more recently in Syria, where Scottish citizens have been caught up in terrorist activity, and at home, where we have had individuals charged with terrorist fundraising and Northern Ireland Related Terrorism.

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The Scottish Government continues to work closely with the Home Office, Police Scotland and other agencies to keep our communities safe and the First Minister will chair meetings of SGOR to ensure that we are all making a full and appropriate contribution towards counter-terrorism activities.

Preventing Violent Extremism - We have seen people travel from Scotland (Glasgow - Aqsa Mahmood and Aberdeen - Abdul Raqib Amin)

Extremism is not a new challenge. The Prevent strand of the UK CONTEST (Counter Terrorism) strategy was adopted in Scotland in 2006 and the Scottish Preventing Violent Extremism Unit was established in 2008 as a shared resource between Scottish Government and Police Scotland.

The responsibility to tackle violent extremism is one we all share. Security measures are only ever one part of the solution. The most important challenge for us all is to work towards creating cohesive and resilient communities within which the terrorist messages will not resonate. Scottish Prevent shares the same strategic objective (to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism) as Prevent in the rest of the UK. Delivery reflects Scottish differences and is consistent with the needs of, and risks to, all our communities.

What can be done to prevent people from travelling to Syria and Iraq

Many people are moved by the humanitarian crisis in Syria and surrounding refugee camps and want to help. People can help by fundraising or giving their time to registered charities. The quickest and most effective way to help the Syrian people is by giving to a well-established, registered charity.

The key Prevent message on Syria is that it is not safe to travel there. Anyone who does travel is putting themselves in considerable danger. A number of UK nationals have been killed or injured whilst in Syria and there is a high risk of terrorism and kidnap. In April 2014, Police Scotland supported a UK-wide media campaign which emphasised that anyone with concerns that a family member or friend was considering travelling to Syria should talk to the authorities and seek help.

Religious and moral education - Briefing - Cabinet Secretary for Justice - Attendance at Muslim Council of Scotland - Counter Extremism Seminar - Wednesday 2 March

[Redacted]

Aqsa Mahmood

Recently (week commencing 22/2/2016) there has been a number of media articles published relating to the old bailey trial of Adeel Ihaq who has been convicted of supporting people travelling to Syria. It has been suggested that Ihaq was the individual who groomed and radicalised Aqsa Mahmood. Ms Mahmood's parents for the first time spoken have about their experience and the dangers of radicalisation. Aamer Anwar (family lawyer and human rights campaigner) has been quoted as saying "the parents speaking out have done more to make people aware of the dangers of radicalization than anything done by the Police and wider terror experts. Anwar has also been critical of the support the family received from the Mosque.

Holding Line if pressed (similar to Police Scotland position):

- It would be inappropriate to comment on the details of this case as it is a live on-going Police Scotland investigation

First Minister briefing note for visit to Inverness Masjid
5 September 2014

From: [REDACTED]

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Sent: 05 September 2014 16:10

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities <dfm@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabinetSecretaryforJustice@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs <MinisterforCommunitySafetyandLegalAffairs@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Commonwealth Games, Sport, Equalities and Pensioners' Rights <cabsecforsep@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; DG Learning & Justice <DGLJ@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]

Subject: First Minister - Inverness Masjid - Brief

[REDACTED]

Please find attached a factual briefing for FM's visit to the Inverness Masjid tomorrow (Saturday 6 September 2014).

Senior officials are developing communication lines as requested by FM, which will be forwarded separately.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

BRIEFING NOTE FOR FIRST MINISTER- GLASGOW CENTRAL MOSQUE AND THE ISLAMIC CENTRE SEPTEMBER 2014

[REDACTED]

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Summary of issue

Outline of planned Prevent activity in response to the possibility of Scottish nationals travelling to Syria to join the terrorist organisation ISIL/Islamic State.

Key Points

Prevent strategy in Scotland is delivered jointly by SPVEU and Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit working to a shared Prevent implementation plan.

We are in our fifth phase of the Prevent plan which covers activity from April 2014 to March 2017. This is a long-term plan to tackle the threat, risk and vulnerability as it exists in Scotland across all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

Concerns around the conflict in Syria have been shaping Prevent activity since Phase 4. In May 2014, Scotland was the first place in the UK to share OSCCT developed Syria guidance with a range of partners including from local authorities and Higher and Further Education.

[REDACTED]

Training and awareness-raising across sectors is provided by Police Scotland through a Home Office product called WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent). Awareness raising is also delivered in communities across by Scotland by utilising the training tool 'ACT Now' (All Communities Together Now). In April 2014, Police Scotland supported a UK-wide media campaign which emphasised that anyone with concerns that a family member or friend was considering travelling to Syria should talk to the authorities and seek help. The message was particularly aimed at Muslim women.

[REDACTED]

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