

David Coleman Headley
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The on-line interrogation of David Coleman Headley by the Indian authorities seven years after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai has not brought out any new revelations. There is nothing new about his assertion that Ishrat Jehan was an LeT terror recruit, as Headley had disclosed this fact to the Indian authorities in 2009 itself. More over, The Ghazwa Times, the Lahore-based LeT mouthpiece had admitted immediately after the encounter killing of Ishrat Jehan that she was a brave soldier of LeT and had paid rich tribute to her martyrdom. However, the Indian media, amply supported by the western-aided NGO and human rights organizations, suppressed such facts and carried out a relentless campaign against the encounter killing of Ishrat Jehan trying to project her as an innocent college going Muslim girl. Even the Ahmedabad Metropolitan Magistrate S.P.Tamang in his strange and partisan judgment had declared Ishrat Jehan and the three other LeT terrorists, including the two Pakistanis killed in the encounter killing on June 15, 2004, as innocent Indians.

David Coleman Headley was an important member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, with direct access to its chief, Hafiz Saeed. Born to a Pakistani father and an American mother in 1960, Daood Gilani @ David Coleman Headley spent his early days in Attock district in Pakistan. He studied in Pakistan until his parents got separated and he then relocated to the US. He studied accounting in Philadelphia and then operated a video store in New York. Later in 1998, on a visit to Qadisiya mosque in Lahore he saw an LeT poster seeking funds to fight jihad in India. That was the triggering point for awakening his interest in LeT ideology which finally landed him up in the LeT network.

According to classified Indian government documents obtained by 'The Guardian', Pakistan's powerful ISI is heavily involved in preparations for the Mumbai terrorist attacks of November 2008. The 109-page report into the interrogation of key suspect David Coleman Headley, a Pakistani-American arrested by the FBI in Chicago in October, 2009, makes detailed claims of ISI support for the bombings. Headley had admitted that dozens of meetings between officers of the main Pakistani military intelligence service, the ISI and senior militants from Lashkar-e-Taiba group responsible for the bombings, had taken place prior to the 26/11 attack. Headley, who had surveyed the targets in Mumbai for the operation, claims that at least two of his missions were partly paid for by the ISI and he regularly reported to the ISI.

Headley had met Colonel Kamran from the military intelligence service once and had a series of meetings with ISI officials Major Iqbal and Major Sameer Ali. Indian authorities are aware of the role of Major Iqbal and Major Sameer Ali in the Mumbai attacks, but the role of Colonel Kamran had reportedly not figured in the Indian investigation records earlier.

Headley had told the National Investigating Agency (NIA) that as per the instructions of his 'handler' Major Iqbal of the ISI, he had videotaped the Bhabha Atomic Research

Centre (BARC) and its large residential colony in Mumbai. Other potential targets that he videotaped in Mumbai included Taj Presidency, World Trade Centre, Naval air station, Siddhivinayak temple, Chabad House, Maharashtra police headquarters, the state assembly, El Al and Indian Airlines offices, BSE, Radio Club and Shiva Sena Bhavan. On return to Pakistan, he had given the videotapes to Major Iqbal. The ISI's control over these operations was unmistakable. Headley had also admitted that LeT's top leadership remained very close to ISI. Headley told the NIA that when on mission, he used to record images of potential targets on two memory sticks, one for Lashkar and the other for the ISI.

Headley had reced several targets in Delhi too, which included the Sena Bhavan, Raksha Bhavan, Vice President's residence, Israeli embassy and Chabad House in Paharganj. He also claimed to have filmed even the outer boundary of the prime minister's 7, Race Course Road residence while video-graphing different routes leading to Raksha Bhawan during his trip in March, 2009. He further revealed how the ISI, which was behind the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, had made plans for terror attacks in Delhi , Pune, Goa and Pushkar in due course. He also disclosed how a Lashkar terrorist from Rawalpindi, who was supposed to carry out an attack on National Defence College (NDC) in Delhi in 2009, failed to carry out the mission as he was denied an Indian visa.

According to Headley, after the Mumbai attacks, Zaki-ur-Rehman, who was lodged in Adiala jail, was visited by ISI chief General Shuja Pasha who wanted to get full details of Mumbai conspiracy. Bob Woodward in his book "Obama's Wars" has mentioned that after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, Shuja Pasha was called in to Washington to explain about Mumbai attacks. But he reportedly said that only some ex-ISI officials were involved in the attack. Woodward however says that CIA had later received information that the attacks were planned mainly by the ISI.

Around August-September 2008, the attackers were shifted from their training base in Muzaffarbad to Muridke. During this period, Hafiz Saeed, Bhutti, Nazir Javed and Abdur Rehman makki used to visit Muridke camp regularly and take classes for the attackers. From 2006 onwards, the LeT had planned numerous attacks in India and its potential targets included an oil refinery in Rajkot, a target in Cyberabad (near Hyderabad) and even a Kumbh-mela gathering. All these targets still remain on LeT's target radar.

Federal investigators in the US knew David Coleman Headley's training trips to Pakistan at least three years before the 26/11 attacks on targets identified and surveyed by him in Mumbai. This information, which was not shared by the US investigators with India , was passed on to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Headley's wife during investigations into a 2005 complaint of domestic violence filed by her against Headley. According to a report released by ProPublica also, a non-profit US news entity, Headley's wife had informed the FBI investigators in New York of his trips to Pakistan to train with the Lashkar-e-Taibba. She had also told the FBI that Headley had shopped around for night-vision goggles and had talked about working as a paid US informant while he was training with the LeT in Pakistan . Though Headley was arrested for

domestic violence, he was let off without any charges being framed against him, probably because of his links with US intelligence agencies. His next arrest came eleven months later, after the Mumbai attacks.

Circulation of videos showing alleged atrocities on Indian Muslims during the Gujarat riots, etc, by various terrorist groups to motivate and stir up the jihadi spirit of Muslims in India is a known fact. According to Headley, one particular CD showing Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji spitting venom against Muslims in Gujarat during the Gujarat riots was highly provocative. Even a New Zealander convert who watched the said CD in a training camp in Pakistan was so enraged that he wanted to visit India to join the jihad against India. Headley said that Sajid Muzzammil and Abu Qahafa, two Lashkar commanders, had shown a number of such CDs showing atrocities on Indian Muslims.

David Headley's Pakistani handlers Abdur Rehman, a retired army major, and Sajid Majid had visited India in 2005 on the pretext of watching an Indo-Pak cricket match. They had traveled to Delhi and Dehradun for a recce of the National Defence College (NDC) and Indian Military Academy (IMA) respectively as terror targets. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) in its chargesheet filed before a Delhi court had claimed that Sajid Majid had travelled to India in April 2005 under a fake passport issued in the name of Mohammad Awan and his passport number was KE 381676. The chargesheet says that it was Majid who tasked Headley to carry out surveillance of various targets, including Taj Mahal hotel, CST, Siddhivinayak temple, etc, in Mumbai. The chargesheet further says that it was Majid who provided Headley with global positioning system (GPS) device in March-April 2008.

There was considerable resentment among Indian officials about the US action of withholding information available on David Headley from Indian authorities, despite two of David Headley's three wives forewarning FBI about the terror attacks in India. If the US had shared the information on Headley after getting the inputs from his two wives, he could have been easily arrested during his multiple trips to India, prior to the Mumbai attacks. Headley's American wife had tipped off the FBI in New York about his LeT links in 2005, while his Moroccan wife had told the authorities in the US embassy in Islamabad, less than a year before the 2008 attacks, that he was plotting a terror attack in Mumbai. Headley's Moroccan wife claims that she even showed US officials a photograph of Headley and herself at Taj, where they stayed together twice in 2007.

In fact, the NIA in its chargesheet has concluded that the visits made by David Headley and his second wife Faiza Outlaha during April-May 2007 was only a cover for Headley to conduct surveillance of Taj Mahal and Oberoi Trident hotels. Most of the casualties in the November 26, 2008 attack had taken place in these two upscale hotels in Mumbai. According to NIA chargesheet, Headley and his Moroccan wife Faiza came to India on April 28, 2007 and checked into Taj Mahal hotel. The two stayed at Taj Mahal hotel till April 30, 2007 during which Headley conducted surveillance and videographed the layout of the building. He had specific instructions from his handlers based in Pakistan to carry out reconnaissance of the 2nd floor of the Taj Mahal hotel, particularly the ball room and conference halls. Headley and Faiza left Taj Mahal hotel after three

days and then checked into Oberoi Trident on April 30. The two stayed at Trident till May 2, 2007 and again checked into Taj Mahal hotel on May 3, 2007 and stayed there for a few more days.

The NIA chargesheet claims that Headley had made eight visits to India before the ten terrorists carried out the 26/11 attacks. Headley made his first visit to India in June, 2006. The chargesheet also names LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur- Rehman Lakhvi, but do not explain their roles in the attack. It also names Abu Anas and Abu Qahafa, who allegedly trained the ten attackers as part of the conspiracy, but not named as accused because of insufficient evidence.

The US in a one-page response to India about the reports on David Headley's US government connection, on November 8, 2010 admitted that it had some information on Headley even before 26/11, but it was not sufficiently established that he was engaged in plotting a terror attack in India. But it remains unclear as to why there was no mention in Headley's passport that he had changed his name from Dawood Gelani. If Indian officials had any indication about Headley changing his name from Dawood Gilani and that he was a Pak-American, it would have alerted the Indian immigration officials.

The FBI detectives disregarded all the warnings about David Headley's LeT connections, including that came from his wives. However they believed that Headley was working for the US Drug Enforcement Agency with which he had developed some links after being arrested in 1988 for smuggling heroin from Pakistan. In 1997, Headley was arrested by the DEA again and this time he secured his freedom by becoming a key informant. In a 1998 letter, the prosecutors had said that he helped the DEA infiltrate the very close-knit Pakistani narcotics dealing community in New York . He was still on probation when he traveled to Pakistan in 1999 for his arranged marriage with Lahore resident Shazia Geelani. He has four children with her. Following a domestic violence incident in 2005, Ms. Geelani had told the authorities that Headley had trained with the LeT. The FBI detectives who looked into Ms.Geelani's allegations of domestic violence charges against Headley, had briefly detained him, but decided not to take any action against him.

In 2006 Headley ran into fresh trouble with the police and landed up in police custody at Lahore 's Race Course police station for eight days. This was after a Moroccan medical student complained against Headley for reneging on a promise to marry her. Extra-marital sexual relations are a crime in Pakistan . Headley was however bailed out by Ms.Geelani's father. Within a short while he married his Moroccan friend Ms.Faiza Outalha. In April 2007, Headley, accompanied by his Moroccan wife had come and spent a few days in Mumbai. But later when she came to know that Headley was already married, she had gone to the US embassy in Islamabad and informed them about his jihadi links. But the embassy officials reportedly did not give any credence to her allegations. Later the UK 's domestic intelligence service MI5 reported to FBI that Headley had made contacts with two jihadi suspects in the town of Derby , which finally sparked off action against him.

Testifying before a Chicago court during the trial of co-accused Tahawwur Rana, Headley had conceded that he was still working as an informer with the US government's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) when he first attended an LeT meeting in 1999. He told the court that he started attending the LeT meetings on a regular basis from 2000 onward and that Kashmir was the prime motivation for him to join the Pakistan-based terrorist outfit. He further informed the court that he had undergone a religious training course in 2002, a three-month operational military training in 2003 and an LeT leadership course in 2004. He had also undergone an intelligence course, an anti-terrorist course and a leadership course.

David Headley had further disclosed that Pakistan navy was also involved in training the 26/11 attackers. This confirms the inputs from Indian intelligence agencies in September, 2006 that the ISI was facilitating training of close to 150 LeT operatives in sea guerrilla warfare. In further confirmation of the involvement of Pakistani state actors in the 26/11 carnage, as confessed by Ajmal Kasab, the lone survivor of the Mumbai attacks, Headley had told the national Investigation Agency interrogators in Chicago in June, 2010 that all the ten attackers had got intensive training from Pakistani Navy frogmen. Kasab had confessed that the ten terrorists including himself had received training in swimming and underwater diving from Pakistan navy frogmen. A frogman is someone who is trained to dive, swim and combat. The sea guerilla training was basically meant to create the capability to hit offshore and onshore targets in India. Headley revealed that a naval officer whom he identified as Abdur Rehman used to be present during his meetings with Major Iqbal, who is also known as Chaudhery Khan. Apart from Iqbal, Headley had also named several other ISI officials, including Major Haroon and Major Samir Ali, involved in handling terror operatives. Thus, from training the LeT operatives, selection of terror targets and coordination of various state agencies like army and navy, the ISI was involved in every aspect of the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai.

Confidential documents about 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008, unsealed on 25th May, 2011 by a Chicago court trying Tahawwur Rana, clearly showed that Pakistan's ISI was in full control of the Mumbai attacks. The unsealed documents, known as Santiago Proffer, gives an outline of the prosecution's plan connecting witnesses, evidence, etc. given to the court. It is usually kept confidential. As per the unsealed papers, David Headley, the government witness, would meet Major Iqbal first after his every visit to India and then only he will meet his LeT handlers. Headley had said that he had more than 50 training sessions with the ISI and he always briefed Iqbal first after his every visit to Pakistan.

It is also reported that the ISI coordinates all its work with terrorist groups through its secretive S Wing. This secret wing formed in eighties is said to have a number of retired army personnel. Reportedly it handles the entire Kashmir operation. It also handles Taliban and Al-Qaida.

David Coleman Headley, had admitted before the Chicago court on May 23, 2011 that he had trained with the Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror organization for the past decade and scouted for the targets for the attacks in Mumbai. He had testified that Sajid Mir had trained fighters who attacked Mumbai. Sajid reportedly told him that they were trained at a facility right outside Muzzaffarbad. There were 12 people undergoing training in explosives. He also said that the ISI and LeT coordinated the Mumbai attacks in which 166 people were killed and more than 200 injured. He further confirmed the stunning revelation that LeT, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen are basically ISI fronts and Pakistan considered them as strategic assets to be used to punish India.

David Headley during his Chicago trial had confessed that he had visited the BARC plant in April 2008 as per the direction of Major Iqbal, his handler in Pakistan. There was also an input from Indian intelligence agencies that the LeT terrorists had a plan to target the Bhakra Nangal dam in Himachal Pradesh.

Abu Jundal

Zabiuddin Ansari @ Abu Jundal, an accused in handling the 26/11 attacks from Pakistan and who was deported to India from Soudi Arabia, has reportedly confessed that he met David Coleman Headley at a training camp in POK ahead of the Mumbai attacks and Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi was also there with Headley.

Abu Jundal, who originally hails from Beed district in Maharashtra, had been living in Soudi Arabia on a Pakistani Passport issued to him in the name of Riasat Ali on January 28, 2009, showing him as a resident of Sheikhupura in the Punjab province of Pakistan. It mentions his father's name as Khushi Mohammad. The passport had validity up to January 27, 2014 and had a valid Soudi Arabian visa and bears a photograph of Zabiuddin Ansari @ Abu Jundal. Jundal had reportedly visited Soudi Arabia using the said passport, once in 2010 and then in 2011 after which he stayed there for seven months before he was picked up by the Riyadh police on a tip-off by the Indian authorities regarding his involvement in the Mumbai attacks. The Pakistani authorities had tried their best to prevent his deportation to India by claiming him as a Pakistani national as mentioned in his passport and trying to obtain his custody. However, the Indian authorities were successful in securing his deportation after they got his DNA samples matched with those of his father, a resident of Beed in Maharashtra. He was subsequently arrested by the Delhi police Special Cell in a case registered vide No.54/2011 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Abu Jundal's confession

Jundal who had coordinated the Mumbai attacks from a control room in Karachi, identified his voice when the tapes were played out to him. The forensic report with his recorded voice was a crucial evidence to establish Pakistan's complicity in the attacks. Amongst the recorded conversations, there is one in which Jundal could be heard telling the terrorists in Chabad House to kill their hostages. India had repeatedly asked Pakistan to provide voice samples of those present in the control room, but received

little cooperation. Pakistan-born American terrorist David Coleman Headley had also helped identify the voices of handlers in the Karachi control room. Jundal was among the six handlers of those who took part in the Mumbai terror attack. Other handlers present were Abu Kahafa, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi, Abu Wassi, Zarar Shah and one Major General. And with the forensic report in the Jundal case, Indian investigators were able to assert that the Mumbai attacks were plotted and executed from Pakistani soil. Earlier, Pakistan's high commissioner to India Salman Bashir had dismissed allegations against Pakistani state actors as unbelievable.

Project Karachi

'Project Karachi' is a terror project set up by the ISI and LeT with the specific objective of indoctrinating Indian Mujahideen recruits and train and use them as LeT operatives to carry out terror attacks in Indian cities.. This ISI-sponsored terror scheme to give shelter to Indian terror fugitives, as revealed first by David Coleman Headley and subsequently confirmed by the revelations made by Abu Jundal, continues to threaten India with fresh terror attacks. Some prominent members of the Indian Mujahideen (IM), an LeT-supported terror group, presently based in Pakistan include Riaz and Iqbal Bhatkal, Aslam Kashmiri, Fayaz Kagzi and Aakif. While Jundal claims that he was inducted into LeT by J&K commander Aslam Kashmiri, Aakif and Kagzi are residents of Aurangabad. Kagzi is an accused in Pune's German Bakery blast in 2010. http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-22/india/32787891_1_indian-agencies-pune-s-german-bakery-indian-nationals

Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD)

The JuD which runs a network of schools, clinics and mosques across Pakistan, is the missionary wing of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group accused of Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. In April, 2012, Washington offered a \$10 million reward for information leading to the prosecution of Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, LeT's founder, for his suspected role in planning the Mumbai attacks. Only Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's new leader commanded a higher bounty. The US offer of a reward was a meaningless exercise and an eye-wash. It has only given a boost to his image and posture. Saeed called a news conference in Rawalpindi, which was telecast alive, to mock at the US offer and joked that he should claim the money himself. He continued to tour all over Pakistan, giving fiery anti-US speeches to thousands of his supporters. If the US was sincere in its announcement of a reward for his capture, it could have easily got him arrested or eliminated. The proposition that the US which could hunt down and kill a terrorist like Osama Bin Laden from a highly secretive and fortified hideout in Pakistan, could do nothing to nab a wanted terrorist like Hafiz Saeed, who was moving like a free bird in Pakistan, is laughable. Obviously the US offer of a bounty on Saeed's head was meant only to fool the Indian public.

The LeT grew out of a parent organization of Muslim guerilla fighters founded by Hafiz Saeed in 1986 to fight the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. It became a Pakistani militant outfit in the early 1990s when it started attacking the Indian forces in Kashmir with the support of Pakistan's ISI. In the wake of 9/11 attacks in the US, the LeT was outlawed by the then Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf, under pressure from the US. But the LeT soon reemerged as a social organization under the banner of Jamaat-

ud-Dawa (JuD). The JuD while continuing with all the militant activities of the LeT, also established itself as a social service outfit by rushing relief aid to victims of 2005 earthquake and other natural calamities. It even extends aid to people in the fields of health and education and raises huge donations from individuals and organizations in the name of such relief work. Though the JuH has repeatedly denied any involvement in militant activities, two months after the Mumbai attacks, the UN Security Council added the JuD also to the list of outfits banned by the UN because of its suspected ties to the al-Quada.

The LeT, unlike other militant outfits of Pakistan, had never attacked military or other government targets exposing its broad alignment with the security establishment in Pakistan. Hafiz Saeed, who has emerged as a reliable ally of the Pakistan's defence establishment is also spearheading the Pakistan Defence Council, a coalition of retired hawkish Pakistani generals and religious extremists who want Islamabad to take a tougher stance against India.

Terror Control Room.

The terror control room for handling the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai was set up on November 24, 2008 at a safe-house in Malir, Karachi. A wi-fi router was set up in the small control room, along with four laptops, each with a pair of headphones. As the attacks began on November 26 evening, four top Lashkar commanders known by their working names of Abu al-Qama, Abu Qahafa, Sajid Majid and Zarar Shah took up their positions in the control room, one in front of each laptop. Speaking through the VoIP networks, they directed their ten-member assault team as it went about its mission. Lashkar operational commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi arrived at the control room with four bodyguards. All these details were disclosed by Zabiuddin Ansari, who was present in the control room, to Delhi police crime branch. The Lashkar leaders watched the attacks on two television sets showing Zee news and India TV.

Ansari himself had reached Karachi from the Bait-ul-Mujahideen base near Muzaffarabad in POK in the second week of November, 2008. He had been sent there by Lashkar commander Abu Anas and asked to report to one Khalid, who has since been identified as Sajid Majid. Ansari came to know about the Mumbai plot when he reached Karachi, having been told about it at the Bait-ul-Mujahideen camp by Lashkar commander Muzamil Butt. He had been instructed to teach Hindi words and phrases to 12 men who spent ten days at the camp, which will help them to move around in Mumbai without arousing suspicion.

Comments

The following points are clear from the above-mentioned report
The US had information about Headley's training with LeT in Pakistan at least three years before the 26/11 attacks. The first tip off about his LeT links came from Headley's American wife Shazia Gilani after a domestic dispute with her husband in 2005 which led to his detention. However, he was immediately let off, probably because of his links with the US security agencies. Headley's Moroccan wife Faiza Outlaha had informed the US authorities in US embassy in Islamabad less than an year before the 26/11

attacks about his LeT links and that he was plotting a terror attack in Mumbai. His Moroccan wife had also shown the US officials a photograph of Headley and herself taken while staying together in Taj hotel in Mumbai in 2007. However, the US officials refused to take any action on such a crucial information.

David Headley regularly reported to the ISI and two of his trips to India were partly financed by the ISI. After his every trip to India, he first reported to Major Iqbal of the ISI before briefing his LeT handlers. He had submitted video tapes of all the selected targets in India to Major Iqbal of the ISI first and only later the copies were made available to his LeT handlers.

Headley had 50 training sessions with the Pakistan's ISI prior to the Mumbai attacks.

Pakistan Navy's frogmen had given sea guerrilla training to the Mumbai attackers.

A 24-hour terror control room was set up in Karachi to guide, direct and supervise the terror operation in Mumbai.

Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hisbul Mujahideen are basically frontal organizations of the ISI which are considered as strategic assets by Pakistan's security think tanks.

The US had announced a reward of \$10 million for any information which could lead to the arrest of LeT chief Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed. But it is obvious that it was a bogus proclamation meant only to fool the Indian public. The fact that the US which could hunt down and kill an international terror guru like Osama Bin Laden through a complicated operation could not trace and arrest a Pakistani terrorist like Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed who was openly moving around like a free bird giving hate-speeches against India in Pakistan, is simply laughable. It only shows the US duplicity in the matter and its unwillingness to act against Hafiz Sayeed.

The US had prior information about the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, but failed to stop it or alert India about the impending attacks.

The fact that David Headley had changed his name from Dawood Gilani was not reflected in his passport which helped David Headley's smooth operation in India without arousing any suspicion among the security agencies in India. Any mention

about his Pakistani origin in his passport would have alerted the immigration officials in India.

Thus, from training the terror operatives, selection of terror targets in India and coordinating the various state agencies like the army and navy, the ISI was actively involved in every aspect of the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai. The US was also guilty of indirectly facilitating the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai by not sharing the advance information it received about the Mumbai attacks and by not taking any action against Hafiz Sayeed and David Coleman Headley.