

# Who were Responsible for 3/11?

After the London terror attack on July 7, 2005 (see 'Who were Responsible for 7/7') and with the knowledge that the American government stood behind the terror attack on September 11, 2001 (see 'Who were Responsible for 9/11'), I have finally started to analyze the events in Madrid on March 11, 2004, which claimed the life of 192 people. Except for similarities and differences, there are strong indications that also here, state terror was directly involved.

## The events

On March 11 2004 (3/11), four urban trains exploded in Madrid, killing almost 192 people and wounding some 1400. The bombs were released by timers within 2 min. and it was probable that the detonation should have taken place when all trains met in Atocha station. Thereby, the roof of the station itself might have fallen down with an even larger number of casualties. This occurred exactly 2½ years or 912 days after 9/11 (whether there was any symbolic value in that remains entirely speculative. More interesting did it occur three days before the Spanish general election. At stake was the participation in the Iraqi war, which the government under José María Aznar had engineered and wanted to expand. His challenger from the PPS, the socialist Zapatero, had promised to withdraw the Spanish troops until June 30, 2004.

The assault shows differences and similarities to the other impressive terroracts since 9/11. The absence of the ubiquitous Muslim suicide bomber is one of the differences, the political aim and obvious participation of state security forces one of the similarities. Most of the suspected terrorists came from Morocco where a large action had taken place the year before: On May 16 2003, then with the aid of 13 suicide bombers at five sites, 45 people were killed and more than 100 injured [1].

## Political games

Prime Minister Aznar claimed to have proofs that ETA, the Basque liberation group, was behind that assault. In the preceding November, he had demanded so-called 'preventive actions' against ETA, inspired by the Israeli state terror and the American intentions. The assault should have released a mood of solidarity, comparable to America after 9/11. It is also possible that it should have justified a postponement of the elections or even a coup d'état [2], to which one should know that the history in Spain – the fascistic Franco era – still haunts the public life. Not even the socialist governments of past and present dared to clean up in the police and intelligence organizations which should have a bad conscience for the part they played in the mentioned era.

Even the United Nations Security Council issued a resolution [3] on the day of the attacks blaming ETA, on the insistence of Madrid, which said it had irrefutable evidence of involvement. Reporters and editors at Spain's state-run news agency, EFE, said the agency knew about evidence pointing to involvement by Islamic terrorists that very morning, but kept it under wraps due to pressure from the government [4]. Still years later, Aznar's party criticises the justice authorities for not following the ETA-trail keenly enough. If you repeat a lie often enough, some may believe there is something about it.

ETA (which used another strategy in its bombings, including previous warnings, refused any participation and the Spanish magazines, first of all 'El Mundo' and the radio channel 'SER,' utilized the crucial three days to demonstrate that the prime minister was lying. The socialists won and Spain retired from Iraq. Happy End? Not quite. The ones who carried out the assault were chased and 7 of them appeared after all to be suicide bombers: they were killed April 3<sup>rd</sup> by an explosion as the police were about to seize their

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1 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/16/16986/1.html>

2 <http://euskalherria.indymedia.org/eu/2004/03/13151.shtml>

3 <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0316-01.htm>

4 <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0318-10.htm>

cover; how practical (although three also escaped on that occasion. The resulting parliamentary commission did show some inspiration from the (much later installed) whitewash-commission in the United States: it was not the purpose that it should have clarified anything. However, the deep involvement of police and security forces in the attack, and officials of justice in the resulting cover-up, were too obvious, even in a modern, through state-terror disciplined society. The current article is partly based on several in-depth going articles from *Ralf Streck* in the German internet magazine Telepolis [5]. However, let us attempt a chronological approach.

### Timeline of the day [6]:

- 07:39** Three bombs explode on train 17305 by Téllez Street, 500 meters short of entering Atocha station. Seconds later, four bombs explode on train 21431 on track 2 inside Atocha station.
- 07:41** Two bombs explode on train 21435 at El Pozo del Tío Raimundo station.
- 07:42** One bomb explodes on train 21713 at Santa Eugenia station.

Source: Joe Vials [7]

Later that day, three unexploded bombs are found. One of them had failed to detonate because a cell-phone alarm used to trigger the bomb was set 12 hours late (the old AM/PM confusion). This enabled identification of both the explosive and the origin of the cell-phones, which were configured in Arabic (more about this bomb later).

### The Explosives

These could be identified more thoroughly than conveniently for Aznar, who first claimed them to be titadine, a type of compressed dynamite used by ETA. However, analysis of one of the remaining unexploded devices found at El Pozo revealed the explosive used there to be Goma-2, manufactured in Spain and not used by ETA since the 1980s. Moreover, the analyzed bomb contained copper rather than aluminum detonators traditionally used by the Basques. However, strangely enough, it has been claimed that the exact composition of the explosives is unknown three years later [8].

The explosives, in total (including unexploded bombs) ~200 kg, were reportedly stolen from an Asturian mine 'Mine La Conchita' and provided to the arabic cell by 'Pedo' a member of Guardia Civil. The disappearance of this impressive amount was not noticed by the official monthly control and its corporate firm, Caolines de Merillés, S.L, refused that the explosives originated from them [9]. They were brought to Madrid by his colleague, the Moroccan Rafael Zuheir [10], who received 2,770 € for transferring them to Madrid [11]. The cars were stopped more than once by the police but managed to continue. Zuheir had also provided the selling of the explosives to the Islamic group [12]. It was sold by another colleague of Zuheir (as spy for the police), José Emilio Suárez Trashorras [13], previous employee by Caolines de Merillés. Trashorras' wife, Carmen Toro, also worked for the police. Already on 3/11, she called the chief inspector of the police of Áviles, Manuel García Rodríguez, being concerned that the explosives had something to do with what was provided by her husband (who was arrested soon after). In summary, many known spies of the national police, the Guardia Civil and Agents of

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5 <http://www.heise.de/tp/>

6 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2004/03/11/espana/1079010638.html>

7 <http://www.vials.com/myahudi/madrid.html>

8 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2007/01/30/espana/1170153368.html>

9 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/17/17894/1.html>

10 <http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/co/17658/1.html>

11 [http://www.elpais.es/articulo/elpepiesp/20050804elpepinac\\_10/Tes/](http://www.elpais.es/articulo/elpepiesp/20050804elpepinac_10/Tes/)

12 <http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/co/18257/1.html>

13 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/18/18311/1.html>

the secret service CNI were directly involved in providing the explosives to the islamistic terror-group [14, 15].

The cell phones were reportedly acquired between March 3 and 8 from a shop owned by Jamal Zougam, who was arrested fast. But then, this statement has some reservations: Zougam is tied into the bombings by a phonecard said to have come from his shop which was found in the one bag of bombs which did not explode. The bag itself was found *in a police station*, where it supposedly had been taken by the police along with other luggage found at the scene of the bombing [16]. Zougam wept when he was arrested – not quite the attitude to be expected from a successful terrorist.

It is strongly assumed who prepared the bombs, using the cell-phones alarm for precise detonation: another link to official authorities, the police officer Maussili Kalajis [17]. He was a friend of some of the suspected persons, his documents were found in one of the apartments, which were utilized in preparation of the assault, he was known to be a deeply religious and he had a military education. He was one among few who in the brief time up to the assaults after the acquisition of the cell phones would have been able to prepare the detonators with timers to the bombs. That alone does perhaps not suffice for an arrest (the police had required it in vain by prosecutioner Del Olmo), but at least for an official questioning (still vacant in Aug. 05).

When were the explosives brought into the trains? The police investigated reports of three people in ski masks getting on and off the trains several times at Alcalá de Henares between 7:00 and 7:10. A van was found parked outside the station at Alcalá de Henares where three of the four bombed trains originated and all of them stopped, containing detonators, audio tapes with Quranic verses and cell phones. Elephant tracks or real evidence?

In his contribution of March 15 2004, Joe Vialls noted that "there was no fire at any of the ten blast sites, proving in turn that high-order military explosives were used in considerable quantities." He continues with another claim: "If you look very carefully, you will note that some of the fragments buried in the shredded roof panels, are in fact shrapnel from the floor of the carriage itself. Without going into too much technical detail, it is impossible for bits of the floor to become embedded in the roof, unless the charges were fixed BELOW the floor before detonation." Therefore, if he is right in this observation (which I cannot confirm or negate), the bombs must have been placed underneath the train, which is impossible during normal use. It must then have taken place in the night yards (depots), after the cleansing. Moreover, every one of the four trains were making its first run of the day from its respective overnight depot, after being serviced and cleaned. Finally, the guarded areas are inaccessible to criminals with their heavy bombs, again pointing in another direction.

## Warnings

Similar to 9/11, the authorities had received ample warnings that the event could be expected. The civil Spy ‚Cartagena‘ had between October 2002 and February 2004 in great detail informed that Islamic cells wanted to carry out the "Jihad in countries like Morocco and Spain." So it happened as described above in Casablanca 10 months before. Recently (2005), the identity of ‚Cartagena‘ was revealed as the Moroccan Abdelkader el Farssaoui, who was not just somebody but Imam of the Mosque in the Madrid Suburb Villaverde. He delivered 12 reports with a lot of data, including Telephone numbers and details about the cars of the attributed chef of the celle Serhane Abdelmajid alias "the Tunesian", Rabel Osman alias "the Egyptian" (explosives expert, imprisoned in Italy), Mustafa Maimoni (imprisoned in Casablanca for participation in the terror attack there) and many others.

14 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/19/19743/1.html>

15 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2004/06/10/espana/1086876911.html>

16 [http://www.sundaymirror.co.uk/news/news/content\\_objectid=14051232\\_method=full\\_siteid=106694\\_headline=-MADRID-MASSACRE--AL-QAEDA-ADMITS-BOMBING-name\\_page.html](http://www.sundaymirror.co.uk/news/news/content_objectid=14051232_method=full_siteid=106694_headline=-MADRID-MASSACRE--AL-QAEDA-ADMITS-BOMBING-name_page.html)

17 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/20/20127/1.html>

## The Killing of Members of the Islamic Cell

On April 3, a group of Islamists were surprised by security forces in an apartment in Madrid. According to the official story distributed in the mainstream media the show went this way: "The terrorists who blew themselves up while shouting 'God is great' were following al-Qaida's textbook policy of self-destruction when cornered. Sarhane ben Abdelmajid Fakhret, as ringleader of the Spanish train massacre plot, was taking no chances. A suicide belt found on his body had been packed with at least 2 kg of explosives."

Joe Vialls again points in another direction: "Clear photos taken immediately after the blasts prove that this was an expert demolition job. The thin front walls of the Madrid apartment block have been neatly blown out with light frame charges, leaving the pillars, floors and rear walls in pristine condition, unmarked by soot. Pay special attention to the painting on the inside wall in the right-hand photo. It is covered with fragile 3-mm glass, which is not even cracked."

It was indeed a successful operation. Joe Vialls refers: "Local Madrid residents are choked by deliberate smoke screens and blinded by bright battle lamps, five seconds BEFORE the Spec Ops explosion which surgically tore the front off the 'suspect' apartment block. Spain completely neutered this contrived threat, because no tourist on earth is going to be frightened of 'terrorists' who have already died very publicly on international television! Of course, the Spanish authorities were suitably discreet about the whole affair, initially claiming that "a terrorist" had apparently committed suicide in the apartment, followed a few hours later by a claim of "three terrorists" when firemen had been allowed an appropriate amount of time to recover more of the imaginary bodies. Within 12 hours Spanish authorities were claiming that "all terrorists including the leader" had died in the blast," thereby neatly removing the induced fear component completely."

All terrorists? Among the 7 dead were the chief of the group Serhan ben Abdelmajid Fajet, his secondary Jamal Ahmidan, Abdennabi Kounjaa and Asri Rifat Anouar. However, from the group, at least three escaped, although the area was surrounded [18]. Responsibility was claimed in Internet by 'Abu Hafs al Masri Brigade' who also claimed to be behind 7/7 – whether this group exists outside the internet, is speculative [19]. They also took responsibility of a black-off in New York in 2003, which then turned out not to have been caused by any terroristic event [20].

It is probable that the Islamic group carries some responsibility for carrying out the blasts. However, bigger terrorists are those who made it possible and even worse those who ordered it carried out. That we are dealing with state-terrorism is certain when combining two observations: a) officials and covert spies of the Spanish police, guardia civil and secret service were directly involved in the assault; and b) three 'examination judges' showed criminal reluctance to arrest and question the beforementioned men and also the parliamentary commission showed no interest in clearing the crime. Instead, they are persecuting those who are trying, first editors of 'El Mundo.'

## Examination Judges and Parliamentary Commission

In Spain, among other countries, large crimes are managed by directly appointed examination judges who give, e.g. orders of arrest and surveillance to the police – or even prevent that such actions are carried out. It is recognized (in analogy to 7/7 the preceding year in Britain) that part of the police was concerned with solving the crime and were actively hindered in doing so by three of the examination judges.

**Baltasar Garzón** was on the job even before 3/11. Telepolis demonstrated that he already was informed as the explosives were transported from Asturias to Madrid [21]. The assaults would not have occurred if Garzón, in knowledge of the telephone conversations he had himself permitted being surveilled by the police, had taken reasonable consequences. Instead, he stopped the surveillance on the very day, the blasts had taken

18 [http://www.elpais.es/articulo.html?xref=20040405elpepunac\\_4&type=Tes&anchor=elpporesp](http://www.elpais.es/articulo.html?xref=20040405elpepunac_4&type=Tes&anchor=elpporesp)

19 [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/03/13/officials\\_group\\_tying\\_self\\_to\\_blasts\\_may\\_not\\_be\\_real/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/03/13/officials_group_tying_self_to_blasts_may_not_be_real/)

20 <http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/326743p-279325c.html>

21 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/18/18311/1.html>

place. Hardly any of his cases could ever be completed. No wonder that Garzón (like Aznar) has moved to the United States, officially in vacancy, well for him in case a persecution of his neglectance should occur.

**Juan Del Olmo** has among his negligences the protection of various police spies and the policeman Maussili Kalajis, all with direct connection to the Arab cell, from interrogation and arrest [22].

**Pedro López Jiménez** has so far not committed anything but September 12 may alter that (this is written before). Then the director of El Mundo, Pedro J. Ramírez, has been cited to appear before the court because he has refused to deliver back documents from Del Olmo, which were used in El Mundo's critical documentary. The persecution of those who try to uncover the scandal runs better than that against those responsible for the assault on 3/11.

**Teresa Palacios** was given the task of investigating the above-mentioned action, the bombing of an apartment in Madrid-suburb Leganés by the special operation unit GEO. Del Olmo tried to get her removed from that delegation [23].

The **Commission** was, different from its counterpart in US (the Kern- or 'White-Wash' Commission after 9/11) constituted rather fast (first meeting on June 16 2004) but mostly concerned with trying to write a report, based on written information delivered by police etc. Obviously, almost all members of the commission, including the majority from the ruling party PSOE, had no intention of revealing the uncomfortable truth behind 3/11. However, in order to prevent a premature closure, the daily 'El Mundo' brought a serious article on the first 'anniversary' of 3/11 [24]. It publishes internal documents which clearly demonstrates that sources in Police and Secret Services were best informed of the members of the Arab cell; nobody intervened. Till today, no consequences have been drawn from these negligences [25].

In October 2004, one member of the commission, Jaime Ignacio del Burgo (of the conservative PP), gave a report of his own questioning of Rafael Zuheir, a summary of which was cautionary also published [26]. The commission had refused to hear any of the police spies directly and reacted sourly on Del Burgo's initiative. Zuheir mentioned desparately, that he not only reported the selling of explosives to the Islamic cell towards his 'employer,' a special unit of the Guardia Civil (UCO). Even a Probe of the explosive Goma 2 Eco was given to them. Besides, he had given those names, adresses and telephonenumber of his 'customers.'

## Suspect the Usual – Arrest not Possible

A few days after the London terror blasts (7/7), the news were suddenly exploding with messages such as "The terrorist believed to have organised last year's Madrid train attacks is emerging as a figure in the hunt for the London bombers [27]." Two persons were mentioned, the Syrian **Mustafa Setmariam Nasar** and the Moroccan **Amer Azizi**. What was somewhat strange was that these names had not been given excessive attention in 2004 (I am sorry to admit that I did not find them at all). One year after the event, MSNBC even denied a connection [28]. In January 2005, Fox had announced the usual spin of common cause with the alleged hijackers of 9/11 in addition to the phantoms of **Al-Zarquawi** and **Osama bin Laden** [29]. Therefore, it seems justified rapidly to loose interest in these persons rather than to waste time dealing with them.

The Spanish law permits maximum four years detention before release. It can be expected that del Olmo will finish the process before, in order not to be forced to release the suspects. Some have already been sentenced for possession of explosives – entirely

22 <http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/co/18257/1.html>

23 <http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/co/17133/1.html>

24 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2005/05/31/espana/1117506519.html>

25 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/20/20212/1.html>

26 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2004/10/07/espana/1097117538.html>

27 <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1688244,00.html>

28 <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7158191/>

29 <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,145160,00.html>

non-Moslem Spaniards with established connections to the Guardia Civil [<sup>30</sup>], who are also the main suspects in the long-awaited process. Two Moroccan suspects, Mohamed Afalah and Said Berraj, both with links to the military chief Allekema Lamari, managed somehow to escape. Also the attempt to mix up al Qaida and 9/11 into the terror assault, has failed completely [<sup>31</sup>]. Unfortunately, the secret services remain protected in the upcoming process. One of the main suspects, Rafa Zuheir, said that the only armed gang, with whom he had cooperated, was the Guardia Civil.

**Please note:** A majority of the references are in Spanish (El Mundo) and German (Telepolis) language. Otherwise, the interest of the media has faded after a few months and many articles in the mainstream media could only be found in Googles Cache – they are therefore not referred – one more reason to analyze the circumstances sceptically.

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30 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/24/24572/1.html>

31 [http://blogs.periodistadigital.com/ultimahora.php/2006/06/01/el\\_supremo\\_rebaja\\_de\\_27\\_a\\_12\\_anos\\_la\\_con](http://blogs.periodistadigital.com/ultimahora.php/2006/06/01/el_supremo_rebaja_de_27_a_12_anos_la_con)