

WESTERN EUROPE

Iraq's deputy foreign minister Hamid Al Bayati told an Italian newspaper that Al Zarqawi has established a network in Europe for imminent strikes.

He said: "Osama Bin Laden has asked the head of Al Qaeda in Iraq, Al Zarqawi, to organise an attack in Europe more devastating than that of September 11, 2001."



**SURVIVOR:** A woman walks from Aldgate Tube after the London bombings on July 7

Western and Iraqi intelligence sources claim that the strikes are intended to pressure Britain and other members of the US-led coalition to leave Iraq.

A number of EU governments are understood to have received alerts of an attack by Al Zarqawi.



**ZARQAWI: Thought to be seeking sanctuary in Horn of Africa**

All three were filmed against the same wall, and wore similar headbands. An MI5 source said: "There are probably a number of such videos hidden away. Each time a bomber strikes, his tape will be trundled out."

# To beat them, we must understand them

**KNEE-JERK** reactions to the video statement of the July 7 London suicide bomber Mohammad Sidique Khan are already dominating our newspapers and TV screens.

The 30-year-old bomber's chilling statement, "We are at war and I am a soldier, now you too will taste the reality of this situation", has already been translated by many into, "I, a British Muslim, became a terrorist because the UK joined the war on Iraq".

Yet in the entire speech there is not one word about Tony Blair or the UK, and not one mention of Iraq, for Khan was intending his message to tell us something quite different, a message far more powerful and fundamental. But, as yet,

we are not listening. Khan's pronouncements are but the latest example of how important it is, if we are to understand the nature of Jihadist Islamist terrorism, that we set aside our Western assumptions and prejudices and learn to listen to what we are being told by the terrorists themselves.

Khan's entire rhetoric was dominated by references to global issues and contexts, not to specific

issues or geographies like the UK or Iraq. Rather than attack the British government, he attacks a window into the bomber's true motivations - his issue is not with your democratically elected gov-

ernments" in the plural. This was no mistake or slip of the tongue, but a window into the bomber's true motivations - his issue is not with

the UK Government alone, but with the very basis of Western power and legitimacy - democracy.

To defeat the Islamist threat we must understand it, and to do so requires a radical retraining of our mindsets and perceptions.

This is not about politics and territory, but about religious absolutism and fundamentalist belief.

If the West were to withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan tomorrow, the aims and objectives of the extreme Islamists would not diminish one iota. Rather, they would be reinforced.

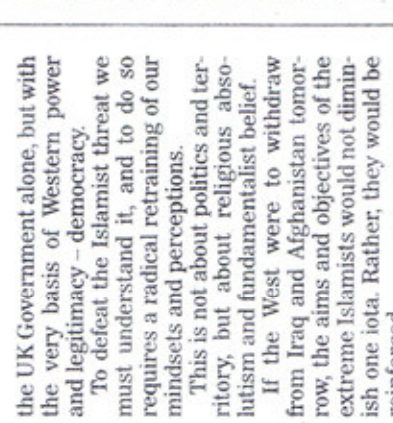
Possibly fewer Muslims might be tempted to associate themselves with their cause, but the cause will remain. Anyone believing otherwise just isn't listening.

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## COMMENT

**HAGAI M SEGAL, an expert on Islamist terror, assesses the real message for us in the suicide bomber's video**

**IT'S WAR:** London suicide bomber Sidique Khan tells why he became a terrorist and gives clues as to his true motives for the attack



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**Al Qaeda plans new outrages, an academic says democracy itself is the target**

