



BATTEN IN BRUSSELS

The terrorist threat facing Britain and what we should do about it

“As a member of the European Union, Britain has lost control of its borders.”

BRITAIN NOW FACES a new kind of terrorist threat. The terrorists have no negotiable political objectives, however shameful surrender to them might be. They do not hate us because of anything we have done. They hate us because of what we are: a liberal, democratic, tolerant society. They wish to create a society based on their dark-age values. They are motivated by a perverted interpretation of their own religion that allows them to imagine a God that rewards the murder and maiming of innocent victims with the delights of 72 virgins in Paradise. On one level we have to pity such people.

How can we combat such a threat? There are immediate practical measures that we could and should take. Firstly we should recognise that successive British governments are directly to blame for the current threat. They have allowed terrorist suspects to live and claim asylum here for long periods of time, and to propagate their messages of intolerance, hate and murder. Foreign governments and their security services have looked on incredulously as we harboured extremists who created “Londonistan” as a hub of world terrorism. There should be a full, independent enquiry that reports directly to Parliament to explain how this situation was allowed to come about.

At the heart of the problem lies Britain’s indiscriminate immigration and asylum policy and the canker of political correctness that pervades the political and media establishment. Britain has taken “tolerance” to a degree that now threatens our survival and compromises the first duty of the government: to protect the lives and property of its citizens. We should repeal the 1998 Human Rights Act and withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights, legislation that has prevented us deporting terrorist suspects back to their countries of origin. Britain had perfectly good human rights before and we will have so again. We should also withdraw from the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees. In the age of affordable international travel the asylum laws have become a racket

to circumvent the immigration laws, and a cover for criminals and terrorists to gain entry. We need a new Act of Parliament that sets out Britain’s asylum policy, and enables us to admit genuine asylum seekers in accordance with our own criteria and in numbers that we can absorb.

Rather than invent gimmicky new laws such as “glorifying terrorism” we should use the old laws of sedition to deal with those who incite hate, violence and civil disturbance. We should redefine our laws of treason along the lines of the USA, as contained in its Constitution. This would send out two powerful messages: firstly that acts of terrorism would be treated with the utmost severity, and secondly that such acts are not just crimes but attacks on the very state and its values, to which all citizens, and those living within its borders, owe loyalty and allegiance.

We should reintroduce effective border controls. As a member of the European Union, Britain has lost control of its borders. Over 400 million people have right of entry, and under plans for further EU enlargement another ninety-five million people could have the right to enter Britain within the next few years. Britain must regain control of its own borders and introduce strict controls. Embarkation and visa controls should be reintroduced and there should be penalties for those that overstay. Only when laws are clear and enforced will they be obeyed. There are a number of steps that we could take regarding the allowing of electronic intercept evidence in court, the registration of military training abroad, and the granting of British citizenship on a provisional basis initially, which would further help us control the entry and activities of terrorists.

What none of these practical measures will address is the mind-set of home-grown Islamic terrorists who feel justified in slaughtering fellow British citizens. How can we deal with that? A great deal of hot air and newsprint have been expended on how we can instil “British values” in British society. That

will be difficult when there is no common definition of what those values are. What we need to re-establish is a common British identity. That will be difficult enough, given that every government since 1973 has done its best to dismantle it. British identity should begin with the re-establishment of a common language, i.e. English, in every aspect of public life. We need to build a national identity based not on ethnic origin but on trust and respect in common national institutions to which we can all feel loyalty. Why should anyone have respect for our institutions when the Houses of Parliament allow seventy per cent of our laws to be made in Brussels? We can fix the problem but only outside the European Union, and the longer we leave it the harder it will be.

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About Gerard Batten

A founder member of the UK Independence Party in 1993 and the first party secretary from 1994 to 1997, Gerard was elected as an MEP for London in June 2004. A month later he was appointed to the Security & Defence Committee of the European Parliament. He is the UKIP spokesman on Security & Defence.

Gerard was born in London and has lived in the East End all his life. He worked for British Telecom in a sales capacity for 28 years prior to becoming an MEP.