

Bin Laden is Dead: Long Live “Bin Laden”. Who’s keeping the terror myth alive?

By [Maidhc Ó'Cathail](#)

Global Research, August 17, 2010

17 August 2010

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Terrorism](#)

In the trigger-happy [post-9/11 world](#), the favoured way to instigate a war is to demand that the designated “evildoer” [prove a negative](#).

[Iraq](#) was invaded because it couldn’t prove that it didn’t have WMDs. Iran is under constant threat of attack unless it can demonstrate that it’s not seeking nuclear weapons. And now [Pakistan](#) is being chastised for allegedly harbouring [Osama bin Laden](#)—who in all probability has been dead and buried for eight years.

[Questioning Pakistan’s willingness](#) to pursue bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders, U.S. Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#) last year told a group of Pakistani editors, “I find it hard to believe that nobody in your government knows where they are and couldn’t get them if they really wanted to.” And in a [recent interview](#) with [Fox News](#), Clinton charged that “elements” of the Pakistani government know where bin Laden is hiding.

But what if bin Laden is not hiding in Pakistan? What if he’s been [dead since December 2001](#)? How then does Islamabad prove that some of its government officials are not concealing his whereabouts?

While the [mainstream media](#) rarely if ever question the belief that bin Laden is still alive, some cracks have been appearing in the consensus. In a September 11, 2009 [piece](#) in Britain’s *Daily Mail*, Sue Reid wondered, “What if everything we have seen or heard of him on video and audio tapes since the early days after 9/11 is a fake—and that he is being kept ‘alive’ by the Western allies to stir up support for the war on terror?”

An even more prominent sceptic is UPI Editor at Large [Arnaud de Borchgrave](#) whose July 26, 2010 [commentary](#) titled “Elvis bin Laden” may herald a new consensus. Sifting much the same evidence as Reid, the “[legendary journalist](#)” stated that “some key intelligence officials are taking bin Laden’s reported demise seriously.”

Both articles cited experts who have studied the post-December 2001 audios and videos and concluded they are fakes.

In 2007, Switzerland’s Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence, which does computer voice recognition for bank security, found that the voices on recordings after mid-December 2001 differed clearly from earlier recordings of bin Laden.

Professor Bruce Lawrence, head of Duke University's religious studies' department and the foremost bin Laden expert, noted in a 2007 [book](#) the inconsistency between the increasingly secular language of the audios and videos and bin Laden's earlier distinctive religious speech.

Assessing the evidence, Angelo M. Codevilla, a former U.S. intelligence officer who studied Soviet disinformation techniques during the Cold War and a professor of international relations at Boston University, wryly [concluded](#) that "Elvis Presley is more alive today than Osama bin Laden."

So, if bin Laden is as dead as Elvis, who's been faking all those scary threats in his name?

According to U.S. and British intelligence officials, al-Qaeda's media wing, [As-Sahab](#) Foundation for Islamic Media Publication, has been run since 2001 by [Adam Gadahn](#), a California-born convert to radical Islam who now goes by the name Azzam al-Amriki.

Gadahn found his way to the Islamic Society of Orange County while living with his grandfather, Carl Pearlman, a board member of the [Anti-Defamation League](#). Ostensibly a civil rights organization set up to fight anti-Semitism, the ADL is "[little more than a de facto adjunct of the Israeli government](#)" which has even been [caught spying](#) on American critics of Israel.

Adam's parents changed their surnames to Gadahn in the mid-1970s. The name refers to the Biblical warrior Gideon who, with the aid of trumpets and clay jars, defeated Israel's enemies.

As *Antiwar.com* editor Justin Raimondo [put it](#), Adam Gadahn is "an awfully odd figure, whose sudden evolution from a nice Jewish boy into Osama bin Laden's Goebbels is just a little hard to take."

Equally hard to take is the means by which the public learns of bin Laden's latest pronouncements.

"Almost every statement by Osama bin Laden published on the Internet...is first made public by SITE and IntelCenter," according to a *Spiegel Online* [profile](#) of Rita Katz, Josh Devon and [Ben Venzke](#), who founded the two companies that supposedly track al-Qaeda online.

SITE co-founder [Rita Katz](#) is an Iraqi-born Jew, whose father was publicly hanged in Iraq after the 1967 War as an Israeli spy. Katz, who served in the Israeli Defense Forces, tries to downplay the significance of her background but is not always successful. "When you grow up in a place like Iraq," she told *Spiegel*, "you understand maybe a little bit about how Arabs think, and also what they are capable of."

When Neal Krawetz, a researcher and computer security consultant, analysed a 2006 al-Qaeda video of Ayman al-Zawahiri for alterations and enhancements, he [discovered](#) that the As-Sahab and IntelCenter logos had been added at the same time.

Attempting to make light of the understandable suspicions that the "terror trackers" are working for Israeli intelligence, the *Spiegel* article jokes: "And the [conspiracy theories](#) pontificating that SITE and IntelCenter shoot the bin Laden videos themselves will continue to exist in the future. And Katz, Venzke and Devon will continue to see the humor in such

theories: Yep, this is Mossad Headquarters. Exactly!"

But with the hunt for the elusive bin Laden having already cost thousands of lives and trillions of dollars, perhaps Americans should demand conclusive proof that Israel hasn't conned them into fighting a phoney "war on terror."

Maidhc Ó Cathail is a widely published writer based in Japan. To read more of his writing, go to [Maidhc Ó Cathail: Writing and Analysis](#).

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Maidhc Ó'Cathail](#), Global Research, 2010

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Maidhc Ó'Cathail](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca