

Mackenzie Briefing Notes

P.O. Box 338, Adelaide Station Toronto, Ontario M5C 2J4
Tel: 416-686-4063 Email: institute@mackenzieinstitute.com

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The Rogues' Gallery? A List of Canadian-related Terrorists

Issue #42 – March 2013

John C. Thompson

Introduction

Many Canadians have a tendency to consider our nation as a small and unimportant one on the periphery of the great events of the world. Such modesty is a fine personal characteristic but a poor foundation for an appreciation of security policy. Terrorism is usually seen as an exotic problem for other nations and many Canadians tend to forget how often international terrorism relates to Canada.

Almost 12 years after the 9/11 attacks and nearly 28 years after the Air India Bombing, there is still a Canadian “who, us?” reflex that seems to automatically kick in with the discovery of some aspect of terrorism being related to Canada. The history of terrorism, particularly international terrorism, has much to do with our country. Accordingly, the following list of residents and citizens should serve as a reminder of that history.

International terrorism involves acts where the perpetrators, the target, and the execution of the attack involve two or more nations. The distinction is a blurry one, especially as the internet and its effect on recruitment and ideological reinforcement is very much borderless. Groups and causes like the Jihad, the Tamil Tigers, and the Babbar Khalsa are international in scope. Technically, so are the Animal Liberation Front and sundry nihilist anarchists but their method and technique are usually trivial and unsophisticated, and can be easily addressed by police and courts.

The list below includes:

- International terrorists and suspected terrorists who are known to have lived in Canada;
- International terrorists and suspected terrorists who have moved to Canada as immigrants and refugees;
- Supporters or suspected supporters of international terrorist groups who may have played key roles in providing resources, finances, or communications support for a group;

- Canadians who either have committed or are strongly suspected of having engaged in international terrorism.

The list is far from complete. There are young offenders who are not listed and there have been acts of terrorism in Canada that were not international in scope, or for which the suspects remain unknown.

The Toronto 18 arguably were engaged in an international terrorist cause – the great Jihad of the Muslim Brotherhood and its terrorist proxies – but they were recruited, ideologically conditioned, and trained – insofar as they were – within Canada and their planned attacks were all inside the country. However, a couple of their number did travel into the US and the nature of their cause is enough to merit the inclusion of some of them here.

Additionally, Canadian authorities have not openly listed all the identities of Canadian citizens and residents who are believed to have joined al-Shabaab and the Babbar Khalsa. The following list is not complete.

A Gallery of Canadian Terror Suspects

Abdelhaleem, Shareef. He arrived in Canada as a ten-year old in 1989 when his parents emigrated from Egypt. One of the Toronto 18 arrested in June 2006 for a plan to attack a trio of Canadian targets with truck bombs, he was one of the few plotters who was neither a young offender nor who had his charges stayed by the Crown. The Toronto 18 were “home-grown” (evidently self-recruited and self-conditioned, usually through internet materials) who self-identified with al-Qaeda. In March 2011, he received a life sentence.¹

Abubaker, Rudwan Khalil. Born in 1978 to a family of Eritreans who later made a refugee claim in Canada, he was raised in Vancouver. From all accounts, he showed no signs of Islamic radicalization before a trip to Dubai. The next thing his family knew, the Russians had announced he had been killed in combat by their troops in Chechnya in October 2004. The body was interred – probably hastily – on the battlefield while his BC drivers’ license and passport provided the proofs of his identity.²

Adams, Barry (aka Tyrone Cole). A member of the American Black Muslim branch of Jaamat al Fuqra, he came to Canada from Trinidad via Texas, where he had lived under an alias for some years. In the tense Black/Muslim vs. East Indian/Hindu environment in Trinidad following Abu Bakr’s 1990 coup attempt, Adams came to Toronto as part of a conspiracy to attack a Hindu temple and firebomb a crowded Indian movie theatre. He was caught before the attack was delivered, convicted in 1994, and deported to Trinidad in 2006.³

Afrah, Abdullahi Ali. Born in Ethiopia, he came to Canada by way of Mozambique in 1991 and held down a number of odd jobs despite his degrees in agriculture. He returned to Somalia in 2006 and

¹[Convicted Toronto 18 member handed life sentence](#), *CTV News*, published 4 March 2011.

²[Family of Rudwan Abubaker says he wasn’t bomb-making rebel](#), *CBC News*, last updated 13 December 2004.

³ Renee Novakoff, [Islamic Terrorist Activities in Latin America: Why the Region and the US should be Concerned](#), *Air and Space Power Journal*, July 2008.

undertook a leadership position with the Islamic Courts Union until he was killed in a clash with Ethiopian troops in July 2008.⁴

Ahmad, Fahim. Born in 1984, he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Jihad movement whose communications and on-line activities had already attracted attention when the Toronto 18 held their training camp. Testimony about his zeal resulted in his changing his plea to guilty and he began serving the eight remaining years of his sentence in October 2010.⁵

Ahmed, Misbahuddin. Born in 1984, he is an immigrant to Canada and worked as an X-Ray technician in Ottawa. He was one of three men arrested, apparently while planning a series of bomb attacks in Ottawa and for designing some 50 IED triggers for use in Afghanistan by the Taliban against Coalition Forces. Three other suspects are sought and another man was investigated and released.⁶

Alizadeh, Hiva Mohammad. He is one of the three Canadians arrested in 2010 for planning a series of bomb attacks in Ottawa and for designing a number of circuit boards for use as IED triggers by the Taliban in Afghanistan. His name suggests a Kurdish background, but no Canadian Kurdish organizations were familiar with him, and somebody with the same name took English classes in Red River College in Winnipeg in 2003 and briefly returned for two terms of engineering classes in 2008. He, and his co-defendants Ahmed Misbahuddin and Syed Sher, had new terrorism charges laid against them in May 2012 and await trial.⁷

Almrei, Hassan. Born in Syria in 1974, he arrived in Canada in 1999 with false documents and made a refugee application. He has family connections to the Muslim Brotherhood and is believed to have links to al-Qaeda after fighting in Afghanistan in 1990-94. Placed under a Canadian Security Certificate, he was in jail from October 2001 until January 2009 and the certificate was quashed later that year when CSIS declined to provide more information.⁸

Amara, Zakaria. Born in 1986, his internet searches for bomb-making instructions attracted police attention and the investigation of the Toronto 18 resulted in his arrest in June 2006. His trial revealed that he did much of much of the 'how-to' work on the group's truck bomb designs. In January 2010, he was sentenced to life in prison.⁹

Amhaz, Ali Adham. A Hezbollah operative who immigrated to Canada, he is alleged to have helped to launder hundreds of thousands of dollars from credit card fraud operations through Canadian banks for the terrorist group and used some of the proceeds to purchase demolitions material, night vision goggles, new computers, and camera equipment for the group until the operation folded in 2000. Once the US dropped an extradition request in 2001, he was released and apparently still lives quietly in BC – his activities precede the passage of C-36, Canada's Anti-Terrorism Law.¹⁰

⁴ Michelle Shephard, [Canadian insurgent 'Asparo' killed in Somalia](#), *Toronto Star*, 3 July 2008.

⁵ [Fahim Ahmad sentenced for leading Canadian terrorism plot](#), *Associated Press*, 25 October 2010.

⁶ Louise Egan, [Police say Ottawa suspects planned bomb attacks](#), *Reuters*, 26 August 2010.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Michelle Shephard and Tonda MacCharles, [Man hounded by Ottawa loses 'terrorist' tag at last](#), *Toronto Star*, 15 December 2009.

⁹ [Canada jails truck bomb plotter Zakaria Amara](#), *BBC News*, last updated 18 January 2010.

¹⁰ Stewart Bell, [Hezbollah uses Canada as base: CSIS Agency wiretaps show suspected operatives using laundered money to buy material](#), *National Post*, 31 October 2002.

Ayub, Fauzi Mohammed. He immigrated to Canada in 1988 and became a citizen in 1992. He was arrested in Israel in 2002 as a leading Hezbollah operative after supporting two deadly operations, but was released by Israel in a 2004 exchange of 436 terrorists for one living hostage and three bodies. Canadian officials were on the lookout for his return from Lebanon during the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war.¹¹

Atmani, Karim Said. A Moroccan who fought in Afghanistan and Bosnia with al-Jihad, he became a Bosnian citizen then entered Canada illegally in 1995. After being linked to Ahmed Ressam in Montreal, he was arrested by the RCMP and sent to France where he was been convicted for passing fraudulent passports to al-Qaeda members in Europe. Released for good behaviour in 2005, he returned to Bosnia that same year.¹²

Bagri, Ajaib Singh. A resident of Kamloops, BC, he raised funds and spoke for the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in 1984-5 in the company of Talwinder Singh Parwar, a key suspect for the 1985 Air India Bombing. Bagri is also a suspect for the 1988 attempt on the life of the outspoken critic of the BKI, Tara Singh Hayer. Acquitted in the 2005 trial for the Air India Bombing he launched a lawsuit against the Federal government in 2011 to recover his expenses for his defence. The Air India bombing trial was tainted by destroyed government evidence, perjury by a key witness, the murder of two important witnesses, and many allegations of witness intimidation – a similar suit by Ripudaman Singh Malik, his co-defendant, was dismissed in 2009.¹³

Barbarash, David. While the Animal Liberation Front seems much more innocuous than groups like al-Qaeda or Babbar Khalsa, decades worth of vandalism and arson have proven very expensive. Barbarash has several convictions for ALF-related attacks in Canada and the US and is a suspect in dozens more.¹⁴

Boussora, Faker Ben Abdelazziz. Born in Tunisia in 1964, he came to Canada on a student visa in 1991 and eventually became a citizen. He became a wanted fugitive in 2002 when a videotape in which he pledged commitment to martyrdom turned up in an al-Qaeda training camp that had been over-run in Afghanistan. If still alive, he has managed to evade capture for 11 years.¹⁵

Chand, Steven Vikash. A convert from Hinduism to Islam, he was one of the Toronto 18 arrested in June 2006 for a plan to attack a trio of Canadian targets with truck bombs. He was one of the few plotters who was neither a young offender nor who had his charges stayed by the Crown, and was found guilty in June 2010 of belonging to a terrorist group and of having committed fraud for the purposes of terrorism.¹⁶

“Chedad”. In the aftermath of the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb attack on the Amenas Natural Gas field in Algeria, Algerian authorities insisted that at least one of the terrorists’ leaders in the

¹¹ Stewart Bell, [Canadian authorities on lookout for terrorists](#), *National Post*, 26 July 2006.

¹² Sherrie Gosset, [Jihadists find convenient base in Bosnia](#), *Cybercast News Service*, last updated 17 August 2005.

¹³ [Her Majesty The Queen Against Ripudaman Singh Malik And Ajaib Singh Bagri](#), *Supreme Court of British Columbia*, last updated 16 March 2005.

¹⁴ [Darren Thurston arrested](#), *Animal Crackers*, last updated 15 December 2005.

¹⁵ [Seeking information: Faker Ben Abdelazziz Boussora](#), *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, accessed, 28 February 2013.

¹⁶ [Last 2 Toronto 18 found guilty](#), *CBC News*, last updated 23 June 2010.

assault was a Canadian – possibly named “Chedad”. So far, neither Algeria nor the Canadian government, have confirmed this information. However, it appears that the report is being taken seriously and has triggered an INSET investigation in Quebec (probably in Montreal) and that the Federal Cabinet has been briefed.

Daher, Kassen. Born in Lebanon, he moved to Leduc, Alberta and is reported to have worked on behalf of the Jihad movement before returning to Lebanon in 1998. In 2000, he was arrested there as a suspected supporter of a Salafist group associated with al-Qaeda. Released to house arrest in Lebanon in 2002, he is wanted for questioning by the United States. So far, as is known, he still is in Lebanon.¹⁷

Dahoumane, Abdelmajid. Originally from Algeria, he arrived in Canada and made a refugee claim in 1995 when he was 28 years of age. He was a member of the Salafist cell in Montreal involved in the Millennium Bomb Plot; Ahmed Ressay testified that Dahoumane helped assemble his explosives. He was arrested in Algeria in 2000 and imprisoned in 2001 for terrorist offences there.¹⁸

Dbouk, Mohammed Hassan. A Hezbollah member in British Columbia, he arrived in Canada in 1998 and made a successful refugee claim, he was the brother-in-law and partner to Ali Amhaz. He amassed \$1.3 million in proceeds from credit card fraud and black market cigarettes to spend on high-tech gear for Hezbollah. He fled back to Lebanon as his operation was uncovered.¹⁹

Dirie, Ali Mohammed. Another of the Toronto 18, he was born in Somalia and came to Canada with his mother. During August 2005, he and a friend were caught smuggling handguns from the US into Canada in a car rented for them by Fahim Ahmad. In September 2009, he pled guilty to procuring weapons, arranging false travel documents, and for recruiting for terrorism. His sentence will be complete in 2016.²⁰

Al-Duri, Mubarak. The al-Qaeda specialist in weapons of mass destruction – the footage of his experiments with nerve gases and blood agents on dogs were retrieved from al-Qaeda training bases in Afghanistan in 2002 – he lived for a while in Tucson, Arizona in the 1990s. It was determined that he also lived for an undisclosed period in Richmond, BC during the 1990s and was known to Mohammad Mahjoub during that time. His current whereabouts are unknown.²¹

Farhat, Hassan (aka Abdul Jaber). A landed immigrant and ethnic Turkoman from Iraq, he was denied Canadian citizenship because of his suspected links to al-Jihad, he continued to work on behalf of Sunni Fundamentalist terrorist groups – particular Ansar al-Islam. He returned to Iraq in 2001 and took up an active role with Ansar al-Islam until he was captured by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. He was the Imam of the Salaheddin Mosque in Toronto from 1997 to 2001.²²

Hammami, Omar (aka Abu Mansour al-Amreiki). Born in 1985 in Alabama, he came to Canada in 2004, began work as a pizza-delivery man, and married a Somali-Canadian woman. Two years later, he

¹⁷ Stewart Bell, [Canadian authorities on lookout for terrorists](#), *National Post*, 26 July 2006.

¹⁸ [Algerian fugitive in custody](#), *New York Times*, 7 December 2000.

¹⁹ Toni Locy, [US looks at potential danger from Hezbollah](#), *USA Today*, 13 May 2003.

²⁰ [Another Toronto 18 member pleads guilty](#), *CTV News*, last updated 28 September 2009.

²¹ Stewart Bell, [Bin Laden WMD chief once lived in BC](#), *National Post*, 26 November 2005.

²² Michelle Shephard and Tonda MacCharles, [Mosque founder tied to terrorist group](#), *Toronto Star*, 9 March 2005.

was en-route to Somalia to join al-Shabaab where he became a propagandist for the terrorist group.²³ At the beginning of 2013, it seems as if he has soured on the great adventure and would like to get out... if he can.

Haouari, Mokhtar. An Algerian who arrived in Canada via France, he supported Ahmed Ressay's attempts to get false documentation and was a member of the same Salafist Cell in Montreal in the 1990s. He also lived in Surrey, BC.²⁴

Hardeep, Singh. A leading member of the Khalistan Commando Force, he was deported from Canada in 1995 on a Security Certificate – the same year the KCF was mounting a major recruiting campaign here and in the UK.²⁵

Harkat, Mohamed. Born in Algeria in 1968, he arrived in Canada from Pakistan (via Malaysia) in 1995 with a fake Saudi passport. He lived quietly in Ottawa at a variety of menial jobs after winning his refugee claim in 1997 and marrying a Canadian citizen. In 2002, a CSIS investigation alleged that he had ties to members of al-Qaeda and had been associated with the Islamic terrorist groups in Algeria and Egypt; he was subsequently arrested on a Security Certificate. Although the certificate was upheld in 2006, he was released to house arrest later that year. Placed back under closed arrest in 2008, he was released in 2009 after CSIS declined to disclose their case files to members of his defence team who had a security clearance.²⁶

Hersi, Mohamed. A Somali-Canadian University of Toronto graduate, he was arrested by Canadian police in August 2012 as he attempted to board a flight to Cairo. Canadian police allege he was on his way to join al-Shabaab.²⁷

Al Hussein, Mohammed Hussein. An alleged hijacker and Hezbollah member who came to Canada in 1991 and made a refugee claim from Lebanon. His failure to apply for landed immigrant status prompted a CSIS investigation, as did a return visit to Lebanon in 1993. He was interrogated by CSIS, provided useful intelligence about his work investigating potential targets in Canada and then retracted his statement when he realized he would be deported anyway. In 1994, he was returned to Lebanon.²⁸

Ikhlef, Mourad. A refugee claimant who arrived in 1993, he was thought by Canadian (and Algerian) officials to have been involved in the Algerian GIA and with al-Qaeda in Bosnia. He was also an associate of Ahmed Ressay and the Salafist cell in Montreal behind the Millennium bomb plot. A Security Certificate was issued in 2001 and he was deported to Algeria in 2003. The Algerians imprisoned him in 2005, but released him as part of an amnesty program in 2006, only to re-arrest him a week later.²⁹

²³Stewart Bell, [Omar Hammami, al-Shabaab jihadist, more whiner than martyr](#), *National Post*, 10 January 2013.

²⁴Craig Pyes, [Canada adds details on Algerians' suspected bomb plot](#), *New York Times*, 21 January 2000.

²⁵[International Terrorism: The Threat to Canada](#), *CSIS Report 2000/04*, 3 May 2000.

²⁶[Judge slams CSIS actions in Harkat terror case](#), *Toronto Star*, 27 May 2009.

²⁷Colin Freeze, [CSIS investigating U of T student suspected of ties to Somali terrorist group](#), *Globe and Mail*, 23 August 2012.

²⁸Anthony DePalma, [Saudi case casting a light on how militants infiltrate and exploit Canada](#), *New York Times*, 4 May 1997.

²⁹[Unrestrained Powers: Torture by Algeria's Military Security](#), *Amnesty International*, 10 July 2006.

‘Isa, Khalil Muhammad Faruq was arrested in Canada in January 2010 as part of an investigation into a network that was recruiting and conditioning Tunisians to become suicide bombers in Iraq.³⁰ A dual-Iraqi-Canadian citizen, ‘Isa Faruq was still fighting extradition to the US from Edmonton as of October 2012.³¹

Jabarah, Abdul Rahman. Arrived with his brother Mohammed and parents as immigrants from Kuwait in 1994, and settled in St. Catharine’s, Ontario. Recruited by al-Qaeda in 2000, he was killed in Saudi Arabia in July 2003 as police moved in on his terrorist cell after a series of truck bombings.³²

Jabarah, Mohammed Mansour. Raised in St. Catharine’s, Ontario, he led an al-Qaeda cell in Singapore that was planning a mass bomb attack (with 21 tonnes of improvised explosives) before he was arrested while passing through Oman in 2002. He reportedly became a cooperative interview subject while in US custody but is now imprisoned for life there.³³

Jabbalah, Mahmoud Zeki. He entered Canada in 1996 on a forged Saudi passport and made a refugee claim. CSIS became suspicious because of allegations – not supported by Egyptian courts – of involvement in al-Jihad and the appearance of frequent communications with Ayman al-Zawahiri and other Jihadists. He was arrested in 1999 and again in 2001 on Security Certificates. He was released to house arrest in 2007 and apparently is still closely monitored.³⁴

James, Jahmaal. Another of the Toronto 18, he is one of the suspects who turned the investigation into more of an international one because of his meeting in March 2005 with two American terrorism suspects (both of whom were later convicted), and for spending four months in Pakistan in 2005/06. However, he broke with the core of the Toronto bombing conspirators, and only faced three years of probation after his February 2010 conviction.³⁵

Jdey, Abderraouf bin Habib bin Youssef. A Tunisian who was born in 1965 who came to Canada on a forged passport to make a refugee claim in 1991, he is a wanted al-Qaeda member believed to have been hiding in Montreal in 2002. His involvement in al-Qaeda was unknown until videotape of his pledge to martyrdom turned up in a cache of intelligence materials in Afghanistan in 2002.³⁶ There is a \$5 million dollar reward for his capture.

Kamel, Fateh. Born in Algeria, he came to Canada by way of France in 1987 after some time fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan and reportedly was the leader of Ahmed Ressay’s Salafist cell in Montreal during the late 1990s. Arrested in 1999 in Jordan he was convicted in France for passing black-market passports to Islamic militants. After serving six years of an eight-year sentence he was

³⁰[United States of America against Faruq Khalil Muhammad Isa](#), *United States District Court*, Eastern District of New York, statement by John J. Mazzella, ref: 2010RO2201, 19 January 2011.

³¹[Muhammad Isa to fight his extradition to U.S.](#), *Global Jihad, the 21st Century’s Phenomenon*, last updated 21 January 2011.

³²Stewart Bell, *The Martyr’s Oath: The Apprenticeship of a Homegrown Terrorist*, (Wiley: Toronto, 2005), the book extensively discusses the Jabarah Brothers.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Ian Macleod, [The warning lights were all blinking red](#), *Ottawa Citizen*, 23 February 2008. (The article is a useful summary of several high-profile cases).

³⁵Isabel Teotonio, [Homegrown terror case goes to trial](#), *Toronto Star*, 24 September 2007.

³⁶[Wanted: Information leading to the location of Abderraouf Ben Habib Jdey](#), *Rewards for Justice*, retrieved 28 February 2013.

released for good behaviour and returned to Canada, only to get embroiled in a losing four year legal battle to regain a Canadian passport.³⁷

Khadr, Abdullah Ahmed. Born in 1981 as the oldest son of Ahmed Said Khadr, he is alleged to have been a member of al-Qaeda. Arrested in 2004 in Pakistan after spending some time buying weapons for al-Qaeda, he was jailed and apparently tortured, before being extradited to Canada in 2005. A lengthy legal battle to prevent his extradition to the US concluded in October 2011 and he is living freely in Toronto.³⁸

Khadr, Abdulrahman. The third son of Ahmad Said Khadr, he was captured by Northern Alliance troops in Kabul in November 2001 while fighting for the Taliban (he had evidently refused his father’s demand that he join al-Qaeda). After that, there are various stories about his whereabouts but he did manage to return to Canada in late 2003. He has remained here since, largely because Canadian governments have consistently refused to give him a new passport.³⁹

Khadr, Ahmed Said (also spelled as ‘Khadr’). He was a Toronto resident who arrived in Canada from Egypt in the 1970s, and was involved in Human Concern International (misappropriating funds received from the charity to support al-Qaeda), before becoming more actively involved in al-Qaeda. He was killed by Pakistani troops in 2003 in the same combat where his youngest son was paralyzed from the waist down. Two of his four sons have fought for the group in Afghanistan, another fought – evidently reluctantly – for the Taliban and a fourth was captured as an al-Qaeda messenger.⁴⁰

Khadr, Omar. The son of Ahmad Said Khadr, he was 15 when he killed a US Army medic in Afghanistan in 2002 with a grenade while fighting as a member of al-Qaeda. He was a prisoner in Guantanamo Bay and a cause-célèbre for sundry parties while there, especially given the long delay for the Americans in finding a trial mechanism for him and Canadian government antipathy to the Khadr family. In 2010, he pled guilty, in return for an additional eight-year sentence with the understanding he would be repatriated to Canada. He is scheduled to be released from a Canadian prison in 2018.⁴¹

Khawaja, Mohammad Momin. Born in Ottawa in 1979, by 2003 he started to exhibit behaviour associated with the Jihad, and may have had some training and conditioning in a 2002 visit to Pakistan. In late 2003, he became involved in a British bomb plot and helped design elements of the planned bomb. He was arrested in 2004 and convicted in 2008 in the first use of Canada’s new anti-terrorism laws. Initially sentenced to an additional 10.5 years, the Canadian government successfully appealed to have his sentence increased to life.⁴²

Labsi, Mustapha. An Algerian, he came to Montreal and became part of the Salafist cell there, and trained in an Afghan training camp with Ahmed Ressay in 1998, and then he returned to London. Arrested in 2001, released, and re-arrested in 2003, he was extradited from the UK to France in 2006,

³⁷[Le procureur général du Canada et Fateh Kamel, Cour d’appel Fédéral](#), last updated 23 January 2009.

³⁸[Abdullah Khadr extradition ruling upheld, CBC News](#), last updated 6 May 2011.

³⁹[Ottawa again denies Khadr’s passport application, CTV News](#), 30 August 2006.

⁴⁰Stewart Bell, [Khadr’s Reveal Bin Laden Ties, National Post](#), 24 January 2004.

⁴¹Michelle Shephard, [Omar Khadr repatriated to Canada, Toronto Star](#), 29 September 2012.

⁴²Tonda MacCharles, [Supreme Court of Canada upholds anti-terrorism law; Khawaja’s appeal rejected, Toronto Star](#), 14 December 2012.

and then to Slovakia that same year. In December, he was arrested again in Austria, and a multi-year legal battle to repatriate him to a reluctant Slovakia ensued.⁴³

Lamont, Christine. Together with her boyfriend David Spencer, the pair informed families and friends they were off to do “solidarity work” in Nicaragua, but ended up in Brazil involved in a 1989 kidnapping plot by members of the Chilean terrorist group, Movement of the Revolutionary Left. The plot intended to influence Brazil’s first free elections in the aftermath of years of military dictatorship. The pair became a cause-célèbre in Canada until they were repatriated from Brazilian imprisonment in 1998 and were paroled two years later.⁴⁴

Mahjoub, Mohammad Zeki. A Toronto area convenience store clerk, he is also suspected of being a senior ‘fixer’ for Vanguard of Conquest, the Egyptian predecessor group to Islamic Jihad. He entered Canada in 1995 on a forged passport and made a refugee claim. He then quickly linked up with Ahmed Khadr. Accused of being tied to Islamic Jihad, and having worked for Osama bin Laden’s construction and development projects in the Sudan in the early 1990s, CSIS started to investigate him in 1998, and he was confined after a Security Certificate was issued in August 2000. He was released to house arrest in 2007 but evidently voluntarily re-entered custody (at an immigration holding facility) again in 2009.⁴⁵

Malik, Ripudaman Singh. Born in India he came to Canada in 1972 and made a fortune for himself. However, he eventually emerged as a strong supporter of the Babbar Khalsa, establishing a credit union and two educational institutions tied to the Khalsa movement. Strongly suspected of playing a key role in the Air India bombing, he was tried in 1985 for his involvement in the Air India Bombing but the trial failed because of the murder of two witnesses, the intimidation of others, and the perjury of Inderjit Singh Reyat. Malik sued the Canadian government to recover his expenditures for his defence but the suit was dismissed.⁴⁶

Al-Marabh, Nabil. Born in Kuwait in 1968, he arrived in the Toronto area in the 1990s but was denied refugee status twice. Regardless, he sometimes worked in his uncle’s Toronto photocopy shop – reportedly to forge documents for various Jihadists. He also worked as a taxi-driver in Boston and may have been trained by al-Qaeda in Afghanistan in 1999. He was caught trying to re-enter the US illegally in September 2001. However, he was only jailed for eight months in prison for immigration offences and then was deported to Syria, arriving in January 2004 and subsequently sentenced to five years imprisonment for “subjecting Syria to the risk of hostile acts”. His status is unknown.⁴⁷

Marzouk, Hessam Mohamed Hafez. An Egyptian al-Qaeda member, he managed to make a successful refugee claim in Canada in 1994 despite arriving with forged travel documents. He took up life in Surrey, BC and was sporadically monitored by CSIS for his occasional connections with other Canadian terrorist suspects. In 1999, he was arrested in Azerbaijan and sent to Egypt, where he began a 15-year sentence of hard labour as a suspected al-Jihad member. If he survived, his present whereabouts are unknown.⁴⁸

⁴³[Austria expected to return Labsi to Slovakia soon](#), *Panorama.sk*, retrieved 28 February 2013.

⁴⁴Isabel Vincent, *See no Evil: The Strange Case of Christine Lamont and David Spencer*; (Reed Books: Toronto, 1995).

⁴⁵[Mohammad Zeki Mahjoub v. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and the Solicitor General of Canada](#), *Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs Canada*, posted 14 December 2006.

⁴⁶[Ripudaman Singh Malik, acquitted in Air India trial, wants legal fees back](#), *Canadian Press*, 17 April 2012.

⁴⁷[Syria – Amnesty International Report 2007](#), *Amnesty International*, retrieved 28 February 2013.

⁴⁸Jason Burke, [al-Qaeda’s trail of terror](#), *The Observer*, 18 November 2001.

el-Matti, Almer. Born in 1963 in Kuwait, his family immigrated into Canada by way of Lebanon in 1981. He appears to have served with al-Qaeda and/or the Taliban in the 1990s and evidently was in Canada when the 9/11 attacks occurred, but disappeared soon after. His associations and activities in the late 1990s strongly imply al-Qaeda membership, but he has been on the run since shortly after September 2001. The United States believes that evidence found in an al-Qaeda training camp proves that he is a member.⁴⁹

Mezbar, Amine (aka Adel Tobbichi); An Algerian, he was extradited from Montreal to the Netherlands in 2002 to stand trial with six other people associated with al-Qaeda and the Salafist Cells for Call and Combat who were planning a series of attacks in France and Belgium. However, a Dutch trial panel acquitted the defendants. He may still be lecturing on the Salafist ideology to Muslim audiences in Western Europe.⁵⁰

Mezer, Gazi Ibrahim Abu. Born in 1974 on the West Bank, he gained admission to Canada in 1993 as a refugee, but kept crossing into the US illegally and had set up an apartment in New York. When police descended on his apartment in connection with the investigation of a bomb plot against the New York subway, they found five explosive devices rigged for detonation by a suicide bomber.⁵¹

Mohamed, Abdullahi. Born in Somalia, he came to Canada as a 14-year-old teenager in 1989. He was recruited in Toronto for al-Shabaab, joined the organization, and then abandoned it in 2009 and returned to Canada. He has not been charged by Canadian authorities and has warned about the presence of recruiters in the Somali-Canadian community.⁵²

Mohamed, Samir Ait. Born in Algeria in 1967, he arrived in Germany in 1991 and became a law-student, possibly on the fringes of the Jihad movement. He arrived in Canada on a student visa in 1997 and made a refugee claim. He is alleged to have facilitated Ahmed Ressam's acquisition of a silenced pistol, and helped to provide him with fake ID and a counterfeit credit card in late 1999, while he was involved in the Algerian Salafist cell in Montreal – and contemplated bomb attacks in Montreal against the Jewish community. Arrested in July 2001, his planned trial on terrorism charges needed Ahmed Ressam's testimony; when Ressam ceased cooperating with American authorities, charges against Mohamed were dropped. However, Canada deported him to Algeria in January 2006.⁵³

Mohammad, Mahmoud Mohammad Issa; The poster-child for the dysfunctionality of Canada's immigration and extradition procedures. He was born in 1943 and took part as a member of the PFLP in an armed hijacking of an El Al airliner in 1968. Jailed in Greece for the hijacking, he was released in 1970 after the PFLP demanded his release after another successful hijacking. In 1987, he arrived in Canada and lied about his previous involvement in terrorism to gain access to the country. In 1988, Canada made the first attempt to remove him from the country; 25 years and over \$3 million in legal fees later, he is still here.⁵⁴

⁴⁹[Transcript: Ashcroft, Mueller news conference](#), CNN, updated 26 May 2004.

⁵⁰Christopher J. Chipello, [Some experts believe Montreal is used as a staging area for terror networks](#), *Wall Street Journal*, 10 July 2002.

⁵¹Howard Schneider, [Canada imports trouble with refugees](#), *Washington Post*, 9 August 1997.

⁵²[Somali militant group recruiting Canadian youth](#), *CBC News*, last updated 26 January 2011.

⁵³[Samir Ait Mohamed](#), *Global Jihad: The 21st Century's Phenomenon*, updated 7 April 2007.

⁵⁴Brian Lilley, [We can't even kick out the terrorists](#), *Toronto Sun*, 11 March 2011.

Muhammad, Wali. (Aka Robert Johnson), A member of the cultish Jaamat al Fuqra, he came to Toronto after Abu Bakr’s 1990 coup attempt in Trinidad as a part of a 1991 conspiracy to firebomb a Hindu temple and a movie theatre. Imprisoned in 1994, he was extradited to Trinidad and Tobago in 2006.⁵⁵

Nadarajah, Muralitharan. Born in 1960, he arrived in Switzerland in 1990 to run the Tamil community there for the LTTE, and may have been personally involved in the murder of a Tamil Tiger critic there. The lack of willing witnesses debarred a trial but he sent his family to Canada and joined them in 1998 under a fall passport to make a refugee claim.⁵⁶ He was ordered deported in 2002 – but was still fighting that decision as of 2008.

Nadarajah, Piratheepan. Generally, Canadian police stay clear of entrapment tactics while the FBI makes frequent use of them. Born in 1976, Piratheepan Nadarajah allegedly came along as the “weapons expert” when Suresh Sriskandarajah linked up with a putative weapons dealer in the US who offered 10 man-portable SAM-18s and 500 AK-47s for sale in 2006. It was an FBI sting operation aimed at the LTTE and these were the ‘Tigers’ who took the bait. In December 2012, after a six-year legal battle, the two were extradited to the US for trial.⁵⁷

Nawar, Nizar Ben Muhammed Nasr. Born in 1978 to a Tunisian family living in France, he appears to have lived a life unmarked by achievement or success. He arrived in Montreal as a student in late 1999 but returned to Tunisia in February 2002. Two months later, he delivered a suicide attack on a historic synagogue in Tunisia in early 2002 that killed 19 people in the name of al-Qaeda. Evidently, his recruitment and ideological conditioning occurred in Montreal.⁵⁸

Osman, Hanan Ahmed. A member of the Kurdish Worker’s Party (PKK), she was sent to Canada in 1994 with a false British passport. Her mission may have been to join Kurdish-Canadian cultural groups and exploit them to recruit and fundraise for the terrorist group, but she also was carrying intelligence material on NATO sites in Turkey when she arrived here.⁵⁹

Ouzghar, Abdellah. A dual citizen of Morocco and Canada, he was believed to be an associated with some of the Algerian Salafists in Montreal; but by 2001 had moved to Hamilton. However, he was charged and convicted of passport fraud *in absentia* by a French court. This led to a lengthy extradition battle which determined in 2007 that there was insufficient evidence to prove he was a member of a terrorist group, but which finally resulted in his removal to France in 2009 to deal with the passport case.⁶⁰

Parmar, Talwinder Singh. Nicknamed “Sidewinder” for his role in the 1985 Air India and Narita bombings; he was born in India in 1944 and came to Canada in 1981 as a wanted fugitive for his part in killing an Indian police officer as a member of Babbar Khalsa. Although arrested for his suspected

⁵⁵Renee Novakoff, [Islamic Terrorist Activities in Latin America: Why the Region and the US should be Concerned](#), *Air and Space Power Journal*, July 2008.

⁵⁶Stewart Bell, [Threat to Canadians?](#), *National Post*, 6 June 2001.

⁵⁷[Sriskandarajah v. United States of America](#), *Supreme Court Judgment*, Case number 24009 34013, 14 December 2012.

⁵⁸Chris Hedges, [Tunisian killed in Synagogue blast was unlikely convert to militancy](#), *New York Times*, 9 June 2002.

⁵⁹[International Terrorism: The Threat to Canada](#), *CSIS Report 2000/04*; 3 May 2000.

⁶⁰Dana Brown, [Ouzghar extradition fight ends](#), *Hamilton Spectator*, 12 June 2009.

part in the bombings, he was acquitted in his first trial for a lack of evidence and returned to the Punjab. He was killed in October 1992, allegedly in another fight with Indian police, although there are grounds to believe he was murdered by them while in custody.⁶¹

Plotnikov, William. Born in 1990, he arrived in Canada in 2005 when his parents emigrated here from Russia, but met a radical Islamic cleric in Ontario in 2009. A year later, he was arrested by the Russians in Dagestan and was ordered to return to Canada. In July 2012, he was killed in a firefight in Dagestan when Russian troops engaged members of Sharia Jamaat – a spin-off of the Chechen guerillas.⁶²

Rasoul, Masoud. Born in Kurdistan, Masoud and his brother Saeed Rasoul were brought to Canada in 1990 when their parents immigrated here. Members of the Salaheddin Mosque in Scarborough, Ontario, they appear to have been recruited into Ansar al-Islam; the Iraqi Kurdish Sunni-terrorist group associated with al-Qaeda. Both went missing in northern Iraq in 2003.⁶³

Rasoul, Saeed. Brother of Masoud Rasoul, see above. Saeed was probably senior to Masoud in Ansar-al-Islam.

Ressam, Ahmed. A member of the GIA in Algeria, he arrived in Canada in 1994 and was a member of a Salafist cell in Montreal. After acquiring a Canadian passport under a fake identity, he was trained in Afghanistan by al-Qaeda and was arrested in December 1999 when attempting to enter the US with a car trunk full of explosives and sophisticated timers. His subsequent trial revealed much information about al-Qaeda and many of its members. His appeal of his conviction on terrorism charges resulted in his beginning a 37-year prison term in late 2012, when the appeals court awarded an even tougher sentence.⁶⁴

Reyat, Inderjit Singh. He was a member of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and one of the key suspects in the 1985 Air India bombing – among other things; he probably assembled the bombs that killed 329 people on Air India Flight 182 and two Japanese baggage handlers at Narita Airport. He was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in 1991 on two counts of manslaughter, and faced new charges connected with the bombing in 2003 and pled guilty with the expectation that he would receive a lesser sentence for testifying against two other suspects, Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajai Singh Bagri. Once on the stand, he perjured himself, resulting in the acquittal of Malik and Bagri. Reyat was convicted of perjury in 2011 (after finishing his second sentence) and is now serving another nine-year sentence.⁶⁵

Sabanayagam, Loganathan (aka 'Maran'). One of the six founders of the LTTE, he had been involved in their 1975 assassination of the mayor of Jaffna and is a first cousin of the organization's founder. He was convicted in 1994 of a number of fraud related charges pertaining to passport forging and served 15 months in prison followed by 18 more on probation. He remained in a

⁶¹Robert Matas, [Recording of Air India bombing confession allegedly surfaces 22 years later](#), *Globe and Mail*, 30 July 2007.

⁶²Stewart Bell, [The Canadian who turned to jihad: Boxer turned militant killed in Dagestan](#), *National Post*, 21 August 2012.

⁶³Michelle Shephard and Tonda MacCharles, [CSIS say Scarborough mosque founder linked to Al-Qaeda](#), *Toronto Star*, 9 March 2005.

⁶⁴['Millennium bomber' Ahmed Ressam given longer sentence](#), *BBC News*, 24 October 2012.

⁶⁵Camille Bains, [Air India bomber jailed nine years for perjury](#), *Canadian Press*, 7 January 2011.

leadership role with the LTTE's political fronts in Canada for some years after. He entered Canada from the US as a refugee claimant in 1988.⁶⁶

al-Safadi, Marwan. An explosives expert who may have been involved in 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York, he had also lived in Canada and been involved in narcotics trafficking. Arrested in Paraguay in 1996 with an apartment full of weapons and false Canadian passports, he was extradited first to the US and then to Canada where he was sentenced to nine years for drug-related offenses. While in Canadian prisons, he made two escape attempts, succeeded on the third try and fled back to South America with a false passport.⁶⁷

al-Sayegh, Hani Abdel Rahim. A Saudi who is suspected of being involved in the murder of 19 US personnel in a 1996 truck bombing in Saudi Arabia (a Hezbollah operation,) he was arrested in 1997 as he tried to settle in Canada with the help of Hezbollah members. He was deported to Saudi Arabia and imprisoned in 1999.⁶⁸

El-Sayed, Omar. A Hezbollah member caught living in Edmonton with a false ID (after entering Canada in 1998 with a fake Dutch passport,) he was arrested after the RCMP determined that Germany wanted him to face charges related to heroin and cocaine trafficking, selling firearms and threatening a police officer. An Alberta judge ordered him released on bail in 2002, and he promptly disappeared.⁶⁹

Saygili, Aynur. A PKK member, she entered Canada under a false name in May 1996 and made a refugee claim. She was sent by the organization to take over a Kurdish cultural organization in Montreal. She was arrested here in November 1996 under a Security Certificate and was deported to France in August 1997.⁷⁰

Sher, Syed Khurram. A doctor who came to Canada from Pakistan in 2005, he also auditioned for "Canadian Idol" in 2008. He was one of three men arrested, apparently while planning a series of bomb attacks in Ottawa and for designed triggers for IEDs for use in Afghanistan against Coalition Forces.⁷¹

Singh, Iqbal. Arrived in Canada in 1991 as an undocumented refugee (after hopping through several countries with false documentation,) he was purported to be a member of the Babbar Khalsa International and the Sikh Students Federation and a Security Certificate was issued against him. He was deported to Belize – although he had no connection with the country -- from Toronto in 1999. Shortly after his arrival in Belize, he dropped out of sight and his present whereabouts are unknown.⁷²

⁶⁶Stewart Bell; *Cold Terror: How Canada Nurtures and Exports Terrorism Around the World*, (John Wiley & Sons: Toronto, Second edition, 2007).

⁶⁷[A Global Overview of Narcotics-funded Terrorist and other Extremist Groups](#), *Library of Congress*, May 2002.

⁶⁸Anthony DePalma, [Saudi case casting a light on how militants infiltrate and exploit Canada](#), *New York Times*, 4 May 1997.

⁶⁹[Hezbollah Warning: Trained member freed by judge in Alberta disappears](#), retrieved 28 February 2013.

⁷⁰[International Terrorism: The Threat to Canada](#), *CSIS Report 2000/04*; 3 May 2000.

⁷¹Louise Egan, [Police say Ottawa suspects planned bomb attacks](#), *Reuters*, 26 August 2010.

⁷²Jim Bronskill and Sue Bailey, [Alleged Sikh extremist vanishes after Canada deports him to Belize](#), *Canadian Press*, 14 December 2009.

Slahi, Mohamedou Ould. Born in Mauritania in 1970, he was involved in al-Qaeda in 1990-92 after being recruited to the cause as a student in Germany. Thereafter, it seems his involvement was minor and in a support role, often at the behest of a cousin (and brother-in-law), Mahfouz Ould ali-Walid. He also lived in Montreal for two years after gaining landed immigrant status, but returned to Mauritania in 2000. Shortly after 9/11, he ended up under arrest and eventually went to Guantanamo Bay, where he remains at present. However, the weak case against him and the taint of torture in his various interrogations may soon result in his release.⁷³

Spencer, David. Spencer and his girlfriend Christine Lamont told their families and friends they were off to do “solidarity work” in Nicaragua, but this was a cover for their involvement in a 1989 kidnapping plot in Brazil designed to influence the country’s first free elections in the aftermath of years of military dictatorship. The two Canadians were in a support role for the plot by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left. Imprisoned in Brazil, the pair became a cause-célèbre in Canada until they were repatriated in 1998 and were paroled two years afterwards.⁷⁴

Sriskandarajah, Suresh. Born in Sri Lanka in 1980, he arrived in Canada after his father made a successful refugee claim in 1989. A talented and hard-working student at Waterloo, he appears to have been working as a Tamil activist as a student. According to the FBI, he began working for LTTE in 2004, transferring communications and sensor equipment to the Tigers and laundering money. In 2006, he met with a weapons dealer in the US who was offering the LTTE SAM-18 missiles and hundreds of AK-47s – it was an FBI sting. In December 2012, he was extradited to the US to stand trial.⁷⁵

Suresh, Manickavasagam. A senior LTTE leader who arrived in Canada in 1990 as a refugee claimant, he was apparently to take command of the Tigers’ front organizations in the country. A Security Certificate was issued for him in 1995, triggering a twelve-year series of legal battles to prevent his deportation. The case set a number of important legal decisions, including a ruling that refugees can be deported to countries where they face torture if there is a serious risk to Canadian security, and a dismissal of arguments that fundraising and propagandizing for terrorist groups in Canada is a form of free expression and free association. When Ottawa had to rework its Certificate system in 2007 it did not re-issue a new one to Suresh.⁷⁶

Tharmalingam, Shanmugam Kumaran (aka ‘KP’, some 23 other aliases by his own admission). Tharmalingam is not a Canadian resident, immigrant or refugee applicant, but he was the chief weapons buyer for the LTTE and took over the organization on the death of its founder, V. Prabhakaran, in 2009. After some months, he was captured in Southeast Asia and repatriated to Sri Lanka, where he has worked to heal the wounds of the long war.⁷⁷ Some of his aliases were Canadian, he is said to have preferred Canadian passports, and may have entered the Canada during the years he spent working for the Tamil Tigers.

⁷³Jeremy Pelofsky, [US judge orders release of Guantanamo detainee](#), *Reuters*, 23 March 2010.

⁷⁴Isabel Vincent, *See no Evil: The Strange Case of Christine Lamont and David Spencer*, (Reed Books: Toronto, 1995).

⁷⁵*Sriskandarajah v. United States of America*, *Supreme Court Judgment*, Case number 24009 34013, 14 December 2012.

⁷⁶Stewart Bell, [Sri Lanka’s civil war and the Canadian connection](#), *National Post*, 3 June 2000.

⁷⁷[The war is over... we’ve one way, one chance. That’s the peaceful way, peaceful negotiation, continuous engagement](#), *The Hindu*, updated 24 May 2011.

Thurston, Darren. Another Animal Liberation Front terrorist, he was born in Canada in 1970 and has been active at times in Canada and the US since the early 1990s.⁷⁸

Vignarajah, Kumaravelu. A one-time LTTE combatant, he also worked for the RCMP as a wiretapping translator, before the Mounties discovered he had concealed his part in the murder of Indian troops in Sri Lanka and suspected he was stealing intelligence documents. He was arrested in 1996, and the RCMP raid confirmed their suspicions. He entered Canada as a refugee in 1989.⁷⁹

“X”: A putative ‘nom-de-boom’ for an-as-yet-unnamed Canadian passport holder sought by Bulgaria as a member of Hezbollah in connection with the July 18 2012 bomb attack on a tourist bus that killed six people.⁸⁰

Some Impressions

A statistical sample of 81 is not enough for conclusive and accurate deductions. Moreover, not enough is known about the young Sikhs who left Canada to fight in the Punjab or the young Somalis who joined al-Shabaab, while most of the Tamil Tigers who arrived in Canada wanted to live more or less quietly. However, perhaps some trends might suggest themselves.

Of the 81 people listed here for their affiliation with Canada and with international terrorism, ten were born in Canada; the rest arrived from elsewhere – including three from or via the United States. At least 21 are known to have arrived as landed immigrants (often coming to Canada as children with their parents). At least 30 made refugee claims on arriving in Canada – 19 of who came here with forged or fraudulent travel documents.⁸¹

Setting aside members of the Animal Liberation Front (and there have been Americans who have come to Canada to do mischief on behalf of that cause), and two Canadians who were lured to the US on behalf of the LTTE by the FBI, it would seem Canada has seen more terrorists coming north than going south across our border with the US. So much, perhaps, for that old canard about Canada’s porosity being a threat to the US; we could make the same argument about theirs.

The immediate aftermath of 9/11 was the need to hastily find anybody trained or associated with al-Qaeda inside both Canada and the United States. Mistakes were made and our normally high standards were sometimes set-aside, however, that rush has been concluded. Instead, what has developed is an ongoing series of “home grown” Jihadists being recruited or recruiting themselves. So far, our police and security agencies seem to be keeping this in check, but the speed of some recruitments have been startling. This suggests a dangerous surprise is always possible, and further vigilance is very necessary.

⁷⁸[Darren Thurston – Vancouver’s most notorious activist turned police informant since Robert Godsen](#), last updated 18 January 2010.

⁷⁹Paul Kaihla with Waruna Karunatilake, [Immigrant Terrorist Scam](#), *Maclean’s*, 5 August 1996.

⁸⁰Douglas Quan, [Canadian accused in deadly Hezbollah-linked bus bomb attack in Bulgaria](#), *Postmedia News*, 5 February 2013.

⁸¹The statistics are derived from what is openly known about the individuals listed here. Many of those who arrived and made refugee claims had used altered or counterfeited travel documents to board aircraft bound for Canada – a common practice described by many Immigration or Canadian Border Services Agency officers over the years.

In addition to the recruitment of young Muslims, the ability of the Jihad movement to convert troubled youths from other backgrounds and bring them to the cause is also worrisome. In the past, the radical right and the radical left were the ideologies that attracted some and induced them to commit violence, now it is the Jihad movement.

Hezbollah, in contrast to al-Qaeda, also seems to have been more deliberate about the creation of its North American branch, but seems to have made more use of it to support operations than to be a potential springboard for attacks in North America. This may change.

At any rate, Canadians have no grounds to feel that terrorism is alien to our country and that we are unthreatened by it. The examples listed above should be ample proof that any continued belief in our perfect safety is fallacious.

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PO Box 338, Adelaide Station Toronto, Ontario M5C-2J4

Tel: 416-686-4063

email: institute@mackenzieinstitute.com

www.mackenzieinstitute.com