

The Politics of Terrorism

A series of bloody terrorist attacks attributed to ISIS unfolded in Manchester, London and Tehran. In the fourth week of May suicide bomber Salman Abedi killed 22 people, who had been attending an Arianna Grande concert in Manchester. On the 1st June, the London Bridge attack claimed nine lives. In the terrorist attacks on the Iranian Parliament and the mausoleum of the late leader Imam Khomeini at least 12 people were killed and several others wounded.

Innocent men, women and children, whether in London, Manchester, Paris, Tehran, Baghdad, Kabul or Karachi, are paying the utmost price for these terrorist operations with their blood and lives. *“The Class Struggle”* shares the agony and sorrow of the kith and kin of the victims and condemns these terrorist acts as futile and counter-productive.

The Manchester suicide bomber was well known to the British authorities. His parents were members of Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), who were allowed to return to Libya in 2011 to participate in the US-led regime change operation against Muammar Gaddafi. He met Libyan Islamic state operator and maintained close relations with them while in Manchester. Similarly, one of the attackers in the London Bridge killings, Yusuf Zaghba, was stopped at an Italian airport while attempting to travel to Syria, freely admitting that he “wanted to be a terrorist”. Another confronted the police resisting detention after unfurling IS flag in regents Park.

The reactions of the US government and western media to these attacks are contrasting and revealing. They called the attacks at Manchester and London Bridge as barbarous and pledged to “take military action to destroy ISIS” and “maintenance of permanent counter-terrorism operation”. On terrorist attacks in Tehran, the White House release said, “we underscore the states that sponsor terrorism risk falling victim to the evil they promote”. Along with this indifference to the loss of lives in Iran, they put the blame on Iran.

The reality is starkly opposite to this. ISIS is itself the product of imperialist war on Afghanistan. It was split off from Al Qaeda, which was began from Islamic fundamentalists organised by CIA in the war against soviet backed government in Afghanistan. It was again utilised in the war against Iraq and then in the war of 2011 to topple Libya’s leader Gaddafi. These fighters and their arms were then channeled by CIA into the war in Syria.

What is clear after 16 years of ‘war on terror’ is that these fundamentalist forces move in and out of the Middle East, Europe and the US without hindrance.

It is because these forces are created and being utilised by the US and European intelligence agencies and acts as proxies in the wars of regimes changes, they are being left free in the imperialist countries.. These fundamentalist forces have two fold utility for imperialist forces. One: they further the interest of imperialism in waging wars on the regimes that did not fall in line with it. Two: they became convenient tools to unleash repressive measures on the people so as to suppress domestic social unrest.
