



[EXTRACT]

## **Osama bin Laden's Pakistan hideout to be bombed to stop it becoming a sick shrine - as home videos spark backlash fears**

by [Tom Parry](#) and [Andrew Gregory](#), Daily Mirror 9/05/2011

OSAMA bin Laden's hideaway is to be razed to stop it becoming a shrine.

Thousands flocked to the Pakistan home at the weekend, as details emerged of the bungling courier's call which helped the CIA trace him.

THE global exposure of Osama bin Laden's home video tapes could spark a violent backlash from his fanatical supporters, experts warned last night.

It is feared the embarrassing clips of the al-Qaeda leader looking frail while watching himself on TV and fluffing his lines during a hate message rehearsal will reignite the anger his death sparked among his warped followers.

The warning came as US and Pakistani officials planned to raze the fortified hideout where bin Laden was shot dead by Navy Seals last week to avoid it becoming a shrine to the mass murderer.

Simon Reeve, author of a best-selling book on al-Qaeda, said: "The release of the tapes is clearly an attempt to deconstruct bin Laden and present him as an ordinary, mundane human being. They show him living in poor and humble conditions. But they play into the idea of the wealthy Saudi who has turned his back on family money and wealth, to fight this war against the West.

"There is a danger that could encourage his followers. Their spiritual leader has been ripped to pieces and that will spark anger."

### **BOMBINGS**

Terrorism expert Lee Niblett, of global security firm red24, added: "Across the wider extremist movement, there is a possibility that the videos could result in a backlash. The one of bin Laden messing up his lines is embarrassing. But the most damaging one is of him sitting there stroking his beard while watching himself on television.

"There may be an upsurge in suicide bombings in Pakistan and Afghanistan in the next couple of weeks. They would target western interests, primarily US interests. This includes military bases, diplomatic facilities and offices of multinationals."

US officials announced yesterday that the terror chief's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, remained an "active command and control centre" during his six years spent in hiding there.

Far from hiding away, he remained in total control of his murderous network. That contradicts reports he was not involved in directing al-Qaeda personnel during the last decade.

CIA director Leon Panetta said: "The material found in the compound only further confirms how important it was to go after bin Laden."

In Washington, Chatham House senior fellow Xenia Dormandy added: "The US government is in a - quandary. On the one hand releasing as much information as possible is transparent.

"On the other hand releasing Osama bin Laden's home videos can be seen by the outside world as either American triumphalism or grotesque."

Barack Obama revealed yesterday that bin Laden had "some sort of support network" inside Pakistan. But the US president said it was unclear whether government officials knew the terrorist lived in their midst, just a stone's throw from a military college.

But Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman John Kerry added: "Everybody has to understand that even in the getting of Osama bin Laden, the Pakistanis were helpful. We have people on the ground there because they allow us to have them."

He spoke as new details emerged of the operation to track down and kill bin Laden. Legendary Watergate reporter Bob Woodward revealed how the terror chief's cover was blown after his bungling courier phoned a pal and revealed: "I am back with the people I was with before."

US intelligence chiefs intercepted a call between Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti and an old friend last year that eventually led them to the compound.

One senior US official said: "This is where you start the movie about the hunt for bin Laden."

The compound, which had no telephone lines or internet connection, was impossible to eavesdrop with routine technology.

But a surveillance team used telephoto lenses and specialist equipment to watch the home from a - safehouse nearby for months. Spies spotted a man strolling in the courtyard each day and nicknamed him "the Pacer". They were 80% certain it was bin Laden. The US considered firing a missile into the compound to kill him. But the plan was scrapped when they feared it would be impossible to tell they had the right man after a direct hit.

Mr Obama said yesterday last week's raid "was the longest 40 minutes of my life". But he told how he ordered the attack after deciding the risks were outweighed by the possibility "of us finally getting our man". Reports yesterday claimed that during the raid, one of the Black Hawk helicopters stalled. Its pilot landed safely but it meant plans to drop SEALs onto the roof via a rope had to be abandoned and troops stormed the complex on the ground instead.

Afterwards, bin Laden's corpse was laid out and one of the crack troops was asked to lie next to it to compare heights. Reports suggested that when Mr Obama was told he said: "We donated a \$60million - helicopter to this operation. Could we not afford to buy a tape measure?"

Thousands of people have been flocking to bin Laden's hideout since and taking photographs where he was killed. Officials fearing it may become a lasting memorial to the 9/11 ringleader are poised to destroy it.

A source said: "The idea to Pakistani authorities that bin Laden's home will become some kind of tourist attraction is just another embarrassment piled on top of the humiliation of him living in their country for so many years without their knowledge, and so close to their military academy, their equivalent of Sandhurst."

America also wants Pakistan to hand over three of bin Laden's widows who were found in the hideaway, an official claimed last night.

US National Security Adviser Tom Donilon said the women could reveal the day-to-day life of the killer, what he has done since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and the workings of al-Qaeda. He added: "The Pakistan authorities need to provide us with intelligence, from the compound, including access to Osama bin Laden's three wives."

Five videos released over the weekend were part of a "treasure trove" of evidence seized during the raid. The Pentagon refused to release audio of the tapes, but revealed they contained threats to the US. They are part of the evidence American chiefs hope will lead them right to the heart of al-Qaeda.

Seized computer hard drives and other files revealed bin Laden was set to launch a new wave of attacks on the United States.

The wife of bin Laden who was shot in the leg during the US raid, did not approve of 9/11 and nearly turned down his marriage proposal, it was revealed yesterday. Amal al-Sadah, 28, agonised for weeks before agreeing to wed him just before the 2001 US attacks. A male relative called Abdullah said: "She thought very carefully about accepting."

3WORSHIPERS at Dublin's Church of the Assumption were left seething after a Mass for bin Laden was advertised. Parish priest, Monsignor Brendan Houlihan, said: "It was a terrible mistake."

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Source: The Daily Mirror website (9 May 2011) <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2011/05/09/experts-warn-exposure-of-osama-bin-laden-s-embarrassing-home-video-tapes-could-spark-violent-backlash-115875-23117318/>