

# British Cruelty! Call it by its name

Why terrorist attacks become 'incidents' the further South they happen? Double standards on display!



By Ali Amiri  
Staff writer

On the evening of August 13, 2022, Shah Cheragh holy shrine in Shiraz, Iran, came under the second terrorist attack in less than a year. A gunman barged into the shrine and started shooting at people, killing two and wounding several others. The specifics of the recent terrorist attack have similarities with the previous one that occurred on October 26, 2022, where an armed terrorist killed 15 civilians, including women and children, with dozens more injured.

The main point of similarity is that Daesh, which is widely recognized as a terrorist group, has claimed responsibility for the fatal attacks. Another similarity is that in both cases, the gunmen had enablers, indicating that the attacks were premeditated and carried out in a way that generates as much fear as possible. It seems that everything about these two attacks prompts one to call them as they really are: terrorist attacks. Yet, many Western media and political figures are reluctant to call them by their name, and instead use terms such as "incidents" or "violent attacks"

to describe them. One such figure is the British Ambassador to Iran Simon Shercliff, who came under fire from Iranian social media users for calling the Sunday's terrorist attack "yesterday's incidents in Shiraz" on X — formerly known as Twitter. This begs a very important question: What should happen for the Western media and political personalities to recognize an act of terror for what it is? On the tragic evening of Sunday, innocent, unarmed civilians were shot dead or critically wounded inside a religious, historical place — also one of Iran's landmarks — where large gatherings of people take

place in times of prayers. It was, again, carried out by a Daesh terrorist, who opened fire on people without any motivation except to terrorize the masses. The British Ambassador would do well if he studies the "terrorism" entry in Encyclopaedia Britannica, wherein it is clearly defined as "the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective." Perhaps Shercliff wanted to exercise the same old British rule of thumb, "divide and rule," thinking he can exploit political differences between Ira-

nians — a natural part of any healthy society — to the UK's advantage. His calculations proved wrong, as even the sternest critics of the Iranian government's policies roasted him online for failing to recognize that it was indeed an act of terror and that there will be no compromise among Iranians when it comes to the country's territorial integrity and terrorist attacks against its civilians. Or, perhaps, the ambassador's miscalling of the terrorist attack could have another reason. Rumors are that the UK supports some thousands of Daesh militants in Syria. However, from all that we know of

Daesh and Daesh terrorists know of themselves, even they would not be very pleased with Shercliff's attempt to lessen the weight of their heinous crime. There is a power in naming things, as names make things real for us and allow us to communicate about them. All of us Iranians are deeply horrified by the recent "terrorist attack," and our thoughts and prayers go with the families of its "victims". It would be almost impossible for us to even think about calling them things that they are not. The question remains: Why can't Simon Shercliff and the likes of him do the same?



The terrorist attack on August 13, 2022, in Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz, Iran, left two civilians dead and several other wounded.  
● MEHR NEWS AGENCY

## First-hand narratives of two heroes at Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine

### Social Desk

On the tragic evening of August 13, when terrorists once again targeted the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, Iran, Mohammad-Mobin displayed immense bravery and selflessness as he stayed by his wounded father's side. Now, his name



● ISNA

is forever etched in Iran's history as a hero. Mohammad-Mobin Qodrati, a soon-to-be second-grader from Tasuj village in Fars Province, has become the youngest individual to be recognized for courage and sacrifice in Iran's history. In an interview with ISNA, Mohammad-Mobin recounted his experience: "It was close to prayer time when my father and I went to Shah Cheragh for pilgrimage and prayer." With a trembling voice, he continued, "As we entered through the door, there was a loud noise. Panic ensued as everyone started running; in the midst of

everything, I became separated from my father." The young boy added, "I saw a man with a gun shooting; I got scared and tried to run towards the courtyard along with others. My father reached me first but then got hit by a bullet in his leg and fell down. Despite being terrified myself, I knew I had to stay by his side." This eight-year-old student expressed emotionally, "The armed man was still behind us while I clung onto my dad's shirt trying desperately to pull him away. The situation overwhelmed me—I couldn't hold back tears. Eventually, after

the attacker left, several people came forward to help. They bandaged my father's injured leg before rushing him off to the hospital." Currently receiving specialized care at Namazi Hospital, following surgery on his injured leg, the student's father is continuing on his path toward recovery. The terrorist attack on the evening of August 13 at Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine claimed two lives and left seven others injured. Another hero, Farzad Badpa, deserves recognition for his courageous act of sacrificing himself to stop the terrorist who target-

ed Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine. As a member of the shrine's service forces for about 14 months, he vividly describes the moment when the attacker entered: "That night, many pilgrims were present in the shrine. When I heard gunshots initially, I thought it was just firecrackers. Rushing outside, I noticed a female



● FARS

pilgrim on the ground with her leg bleeding." He continued, "The terrorist had a Kalashnikov weapon and was attacking people. Without hesitation, I chased him down and tackled him until operational forces arrived." When asked if he felt afraid when facing off against the terrorist, Badpa replied, "In that moment, I looked at the dome of the shrine, and my heart found solace. I sensed someone behind me pushing me forward, telling me to keep moving. I firmly believed that Shah Cheragh's divine presence stood by my side." This dedicated hero add-

ed, "Upon reaching him, the terrorist fell after I struck him with my knee. He remained silent as I restrained his hands behind his back. I brought him down near an area where we lay carpets in the evenings for resting pilgrims. There were around fifty to sixty people there. The attacker intended to harm them, but upon seeing me, he pointed his gun at me. Miraculously, the will of God ensured he didn't shoot. I reached him swiftly, pinned him down, and threw his gun aside. Eventually, the security department colleagues arrived and took control of the assailant."

## IRCS volunteer conveys a message of peace to 56 countries

### Social Desk

A member of the Iranian Red Crescent Society has conveyed the message of peace and friendship to 56 countries, by bicycle touring the countries. After sending the message of peace and friendship to 56 countries of the world, Mohammad Tajran, a volunteer of the Red Crescent Society, is now biking in Latin America, Mehr news agency reported. Tajran planted saplings of peace and friendship in the specialized hemodialysis center of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran in



● MEHR

the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, the report added. On his recent trip, the volunteer held talks with Bolivian students on peace and friendship

and carried out educational and civic activities, promoting tree-planting culture and environmental protection by planting trees.

## Huge fire at Tehran's Grand Bazaar causes financial losses

### Social Desk

A large fire broke out at Tehran's Grand Bazaar early Tuesday morning, leaving 30 warehouses and shops destroyed and six people injured, two provincial officials said. In the early hours of Tuesday morning, the fire broke out in Qaisar passage of the grand bazaar, during which six people were injured, said the head of Tehran's Medical Emergency Organization. Mohammad Esmaeil Tavakoli added that all the injured were treated at the site, Tasnim news agency reported. According to the spokesperson of the Tehran Fire Department Jalal Maleki, the fire set ablaze about 30 ware-



● IRNA

houses and shops. He said that the fire erupted in the basement of the passage. The official said that firefighters had managed to control the massive fire

without any serious injuries but many financial losses are expected. According to the official, the expert team will begin its investigation to find the cause of the accident.

Criticizing the safety situation in Tehran Bazaar, Maleki also said that the bazaar has always had safety problems and safety warnings have been issued many times.