

The Anthrax-Letters 2001

In the beginning of October 2001, letters containing a powder with the Anthrax bacteria were distributed mainly to reporters and politicians in the USA. The case is still causing attention – to me, it was so far standing in the shadow of 9/11, but it becomes interesting for the same kind of blind police work and links to government actions. The present review is mostly based on a recent article in Telepolis [1] and Rivero's collection [2].

About three weeks after 9/11, the anthrax letters started to appear, adding to the terror paranoia prevailing since then. 23 People were infected among whom 5 died. Among the suspects were a certain Saddam Hussein [3] but it was soon suspected that a Pentagon lab had cultivated the germs [4]. With that recognition, the official interest in the anthrax-letters cooled considerably. Incidentally, it was reported that pResident Bush and members of his government ingested Ciprofloxacin, the preferential antibiotic against anthrax infection, prophylactically since 9/11 [5,6] – were they expecting something to happen?

The Bush administration had already before 9/11 admitted that Pentagon was working at B-weapons in Fort Detrick, Maryland [7] and let the conference for further development of the ban upon B-weapons dissolve without a conclusion [8]. After some time, a microbiologist, Stephen Hatfill, who had worked in Fort Detrick, was accused of being the one who had stolen the bacteria. Hatfill was never indicted but the suspicion publicly expressed and he was disturbed for 5 years. In June 2008, he was awarded a damage claim of 4.6 million \$ by a court [9].

More appropriate would be to suspect Lt. Col. Philip Zack, who is Jewish [10]. In 1992, 27 biological strains, including anthrax, were stolen from Fort Detrick [11]. A surveillance camera recorded Zack being let in at 8:40 p.m. on Jan. 23, 1992, apparently by Dr. Marian Rippey, a lab pathologist and close friend of Zack's. At this time, he no longer worked at Fort Detrick – Drs. Zack and Rippey left their job 1991 after a racially motivated harassment on Dr. Ayaad Assaad, an Egyptian-born scientist, now a US citizen. The conspirators had the support of the lab's former commander, Colonel Franz. At this point, both the FBI and the mainstream media stopped making any public comments on the case – we are, after all, not anti-semitic.

Instead someone sent an anonymous letter – a little after 9/11 but before the existence of anthrax-laced mail became known - naming Dr. Assaad as a potential bioterrorist. The letter stated, among other things, "I have worked with Dr. Assaad, and I heard him say that he has a vendetta against the U.S. government. According to Assaad, "The letter-writer clearly knew my entire background, my training in both chemical and biological agents, my security clearance, what floor where I work now, that I have two sons, what train I take to work, and where I live" [12]. FBI agents decided the note was a hoax after interviewing him. The former notes to Dr. Zack were taken from Michael Rivero's and Justin Raymondo's analysis. Also Hector Carreon La Voz de Aztlan specifically pointed at Dr. Zack as the prime suspect. He pointed out that the anthrax-laced letters seemed contrived and were purposely written to make them appear that they were coming from someone in the Islamic World [13]. Although FBI claims still

1 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/28/28358/1.html>

2 <http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/anthraxsuspect.html>

3 http://www.salon.com/opinion/greenwald/2007/04/05/abc_news/index.html#postid-updateG3

4 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/11/11634/1.html>

5 <http://www.judicialwatch.org/2953.shtml>

6 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/12/12693/1.html>

7 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/9/9481/1.html>

8 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/11/11312/1.html>

9 <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/28/washington/28hatfill.html>

10 http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/ARCHIVE/ctnow_com%20SPECIALS.htm

11 <http://www.antiwar.com/justin/j022202.html>

12 <http://dir.salon.com/story/news/feature/2002/01/26/assaad/index.html>

13 <http://aztlan.net/zack.htm>

having a team of 20 agents working on the case, no arrests have yet been made, not even public mention of the suspicious subjects as in the case of Drs. Hatfill and Assaad.

Dr. Assaad was ultimately dismissed from the lab in 1997, along with six other older scientists, when the lab announced it needed to downsize because of budget restrictions. But Assaad disputes that reason in his age discrimination suit against the department (about the harassment), which was still pending in 2002.

Now you may get a suspicion, who was behind the anthrax letters in 2001, combining a private vendetta with a Zionist plot, at the cost of 5 lives. Doing so, you will know more than the FBI. And there are still 26 strains to go.

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You can almost hear triumphant FBI-servants exclaim, "*We got him but he committed suicide. The case is closed*" behind the report, 'A leading army microbiologist [Bruce Ivins, a 62-year-old research specialist] suspected of being behind the anthrax mailings in the US in autumn 2001 has apparently committed suicide ... In 2003 he and two colleagues at Fort Detrick were given the Pentagon's highest civilian award for their work on anthrax vaccine' [14]. More appropriate would probably be 'Distinguished elderly scientist dies under unnatural circumstances and is then assumed to be the man behind the anthrax assaults.'

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14 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-anthrax-suspect-commits-suicide-as-fbi-net-closes-in-883263.html>