



Irfan Siddiq.

Her Majesty's Pashtun

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The United Kingdom has consistently demonstrated its willingness to invest in elite groups, particularly those from countries that align with its foreign policy interests. Consequently, a substantial community of people from British India has long been established in the UK, with their ancestors having migrated to the British Islands along with their colonizers and subsequently taking on significant roles in the country.

However, there is an important aspect to consider that often goes unnoticed. For years, London has not only recruited elites, but has specifically targeted individuals from distinct ethno-religious communities in the region – essentially, sectarians – effectively creating a blend of these sectarians alongside those who have loyally served colonial powers.

This strategy was a calculated move. Firstly, the leadership of any sect typically comprises affluent individuals. Upon migrating to the UK to escape persecution in their home countries, they brought their financial resources with them. Secondly, the Brits gained a group of long-term allies – having been uprooted from their homelands, they were motivated to do whatever it took to maintain their previous status in their new environment.

Over time, their descendants have adapted perfectly to the demands of modernity. They epitomize the triumph of globalization, tolerance, multiculturalism, and inclusiveness. Currently, many of them hold public positions in the UK and represent the country on the international stage.

Ahmadis of the British Crown

Irfan Siddiq, a native of these circles and a MI6 officer, has had diplomatic postings to Cyprus, Sudan and Azerbaijan and has been appointed as Ambassador to Iraq. He owes his career in many ways to his family's affiliation with a highly influential sect of Ahmadis, or Qadianis as they are also referred to, followers of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. Naturally, Siddiq does not go public about it for a good reason.



Anjuman-i Ahmadiyya is a syncretic teaching that includes elements of Islam, mysticism, Christianity and Indian pagan beliefs. In other words, it is an explosive mixture of Shia Islam and Sunni Islam, diluted with the recognition of Christian, Vedic and even Zoroastrian dogmas.

It is for this reason that official Islam categorizes this movement as a sect and has initiated persecution against it. Members of this sect face oppression in numerous Muslim

countries. Nevertheless, this movement has found a safe haven in the UK, with its official headquarters established in London since 1984.

The Ahmadis hold significant influence within the kingdom's political landscape. Their supporters are present in various sectors, including parliament, the Foreign Office, and the judiciary. In particular, Karim Ahmad Khan, the head of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, and his brother, former British Conservative MP Imran Ahmad Khan, are also Ahmadis.

The adherents of this sect espouse beliefs in the Ahmadiyya Caliphate and pledge their allegiance to their fifth caliph, who resides in the UK. While this is framed as a matter of spiritual and religious leadership, it effectively represents a classic case of a sectarian state existing within the larger state framework.

For this reason, it is highly detrimental for Siddiq to highlight his association with the Ahmadis. However, it is the responsibility of MI5 to address this concern and continually prove his unwavering loyalty.

A diplomatic spy

Irfan Siddiq was born on January 27, 1977. After obtaining a strong higher education, he entered the United Kingdom's Diplomatic Service in 1998; however, his primary career focused around MI6. He then advanced through the ranks, working diligently, albeit not very productively, engaging in espionage in countries such as India, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. Ultimately, he was unable to achieve significant accomplishments within this field.



It was rather natural as there is a clear distinction in Islam between faithful Muslims and sectarians. Engaging with them and accepting financial support is acceptable; however, discussions regarding the political future of the country are unlikely to be taken seriously. Furthermore, it is considered inappropriate for faithful Muslims to submit to the authority of sectarian individuals and their demands. It can escalate to the matter of life and death; Islam is harsh towards sectarians.

A notable period in Siddiq's career occurred during his secondments to the US State Department in Washington from 2004 to 2005. There he served as the Iraq Political Officer sharing his insights and expertise regarding the Middle East with the Americans, including the intelligence service, while snooping around – how could he do otherwise? – and providing rather unfavorable assessments of his American colleagues in his MI6 reports.

Ambassador

In the early 2010s, Siddiq aligned himself with prevailing trends and, alongside other colleagues, was recruited from the national intelligence to rectify the image of the Foreign Office. In 2013, like several other MI6 officers, he was appointed as Ambassador – his assignment being Azerbaijan.



Here, Siddiq adhered strictly to established protocols. His primary objective was to diminish the influence of Moscow upon Baku. He promoted oil projects involving BP, although these initiatives were already progressing well without his intervention. Siddiq vigorously advocated for the expansion of energy transit routes that bypass Russia; however, much of this effort proved to be unsuccessful. He engaged in the arms trade, however, mostly those were small arms and ammunition, lacking modern or heavy weaponry. While he was involved in training Azerbaijani military personnel, the programs he offered held minimal appeal for them. He engaged in some espionage, though the Azerbaijani secret service clearly outlined the allowable boundaries that he was to respect, and he adhered to those limits.

As can be observed, Siddiq executed his tasks correctly; everything aligned with expectations, yet there is a caveat – he failed to secure any significant outcomes, and much of his work appeared to be just for show. Additionally, he did not inflict any substantial harm on Russia.

His performance was marginally better during his tenure in Sudan from 2018 to 2021. In this setting, Siddiq, his field station officers and diplomatic mission officials effectively capitalized on the internal divisions within the country, which was split into two camps. Siddiq and his team intensified the bloodshed and incited instability. The United Kingdom's Diplomatic Service have often focused on leveraging the challenges faced by other nations for their own gain, rather than concerning themselves with those external issues.

Siddiq's assignment to lead the UK mission in Cyprus, following the success in Sudan, appeared to be a logical progression. In his new role, he is once again actively combating the "Russian influence" by fostering partnership with Nicosia in the security sector and working to reposition Cyprus away from its Russian connections, thereby reinforcing the strategic western direction in Cyprus politics. While these efforts are commendable, it is noteworthy that during this same period, Moscow established its consulate in the unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This move has provided a substantial leverage point in discussions with Nicosia, potentially undermining the achievements claimed in efforts to "displace" Russia from the island. It would be prudent to refrain from

emphasizing MI6 accomplishments in Cyprus during this time, as they appear rather insignificant.

Iraqi realities

The appointment of Irfan Siddiq as Ambassador to Iraq is widely regarded as a move to bring in an "experienced expert in the Middle East" tasked with addressing the "blunders" made by his predecessor. Indeed, the Foreign Office has faced numerous challenges in this region. Restoring the lost trust of the M. Sudani government, re-establishing relationships with Shiite politicians, and redefining its military presence in the country are imperative tasks, especially as London is determined to maintain its influence. Moreover, advocating for the interests of British oil companies and facilitating educational exchanges with Baghdad will require focused efforts.



Meanwhile, it appears that expectations for Siddiq are quite low. While he does have an understanding of the local context, this does not guarantee that he will be regarded with seriousness. Ultimately, he remains an outsider to the people of Iraq, despite his Muslim identity.

Irfan Siddiq. A British national navigating the demands of dual allegiances.



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