

Al Fayed Charges 'Murder' in Anniversary Lawsuit

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Exactly three years after the Aug. 31, 1997 Paris car crash, that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed, and Henri Paul, Mohamed Al Fayed, father of Dodi Fayed, filed a Federal civil suit in Washington, D.C., demanding that the U.S. government turn over all classified documentation that could shed light on the causes of that tragic event.

The suit also demanded government files on jailed fraudster and self-proclaimed "CIA agent" Oswald LeWinter, and others, who were foiled in a 1998 effort to extort \$20 million from Al Fayed. U.S. Justice Department officials have stonewalled for two and a half years, in bringing charges against the other Americans involved in the scheme, despite the fact that LeWinter is now serving a four-year jail sentence in Austria for his role in the conspiracy. The incident revolved around LeWinter et al.'s attempts to sell Al Fayed forged CIA documents, purporting to prove that Britain's MI6 intelligence agency assassinated Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed. To this day, LeWinter claims that, although the documents seized in his hotel in Vienna are forgeries, their content is accurate, and reflects the contents of actual CIA documents.

Smears and Cover-Up Can't Stop Al Fayed

Despite a flagrant cover-up of the causes of the Paris crash by French authorities, and a non-stop smear campaign against him by the British Crown and the majority of the British Establishment media, Mohamed Al Fayed has continued to insist that the deaths of his son, the Princess, and their driver, were murder. In a videotaped statement released at a Washington press conference on Aug. 30, 2000, announcing the lawsuit, Al Fayed stated:

"Three years ago, on Aug. 31, 1997, I lost my beloved son Dodi and a dear friend, Diana, Princess of Wales, in a tragic event in Paris, France. The car crash that took the lives of these two lovely people has been portrayed as a traffic

accident caused by a drunk, driving at high speed. The reality is that it was murder."

And, three years after the fact, a growing mountain of evidence, now, more than ever, supports Al Fayed's contentions.

Despite British Establishment efforts to demonize the Harrods department store owner as a "conspiracy-monger," and to bury the truth of the Paris crash beneath a "bodyguard of lies" and a rigorously enforced media blackout, the press conference drew national and international media attention, and once again spotlighted the many unanswered questions surrounding the crash in the Place de l'Alma tunnel.

Washington attorney Mark Zaid, Harrods security director John Macnamara, and English barrister Ian Burton, who represents Al Fayed, spent more than an hour detailing the case for a *de novo* investigation into the Paris events, demanding that the U.S. agencies named in the lawsuit, make their classified files available, to ensure that justice is done and the truth made public. The press conference was attended by an overflow crowd of reporters and other interested parties.

For the next 48 hours, major U.S. news outlets featured coverage of the Al Fayed allegations. John Macnamara and Mark Zaid, appearing on a variety of news interview shows, presented dramatic evidence that the French investigation was a cover-up, and that driver Henri Paul was not drunk at the time of the crash.

At the press conference, Macnamara, Zaid, and Burton released photographs from the surveillance cameras at the Paris Ritz Hotel, which Al Fayed also owns, showing two unidentified men, at the edge of a crowd of paparazzi in front of the hotel, in the hours just prior to the crash. Those two men, whose photographs first appeared, exclusively, on the cover of *EIR* on Dec. 19, 1997, were part of a team of five to seven men, tracking Diana and Dodi, it is believed. Were they



John Mcnamara, director of Security for Harrods, at a press conference in Washington on Aug. 30, announcing a lawsuit by Mohamed Al Fayed, who is demanding that U.S. agencies make available their classified files on the deaths of Dodi Fayed and Princess Diana.

part of an MI6 surveillance unit, that, several well-placed sources say, was stalking the couple from the moment they arrived in Paris? That was one of a string of questions posed by Macnamara and Zaid.

Participants in the press conference were also provided excerpts from video footage at the Ritz Hotel, showing acting hotel security chief Henri Paul, in the evening prior to the crash, which took place shortly after midnight. Although the official French investigation found that Paul was drunk, the video footage showed that Paul was perfectly normal, conversing with other security personnel, hotel guests, and the Princess and Dodi Fayed.

The official French coroner's files revealed that Henri Paul not only had illegal levels of alcohol and traces of two prescription drugs in his blood. There was also a 21% level of carbon monoxide in the same blood sample! Experts on carbon monoxide poisoning concur that a 21% presence of carbon monoxide would render any individual incapable of moving—and, in fact, near death. The hotel video footage, and Paul's ability to navigate the Mercedes sedan through the Paris streets and riverside expressway, clearly demonstrated that he was not suffering from such lethal levels of carbon monoxide.

As Macnamara told the Washington press corps, the only conclusion that can be drawn, is that the blood samples were either so contaminated as to be useless, or that they were taken from some other person! In short, the whole foundation for the official French government claim that the crash was the

result of drunk driving is *disproven* by the very evidence in the French magistrate's file.

A So-Called 'Suicide'

Macnamara elicited a sharp reaction from the Washington press corps, when he detailed the mysterious death of paparazzo James Andanson, whose charred body was found in the wreckage of a car in the south of France in May of this year. French officials claimed that Andanson had committed suicide, because of marital troubles.

Andanson was not only one of the leading paparazzi who had stalked Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed during the final week of their lives. Andanson was, also, at the time of the Paris crash, the owner of a white Fiat Uno. French authorities acknowledged, from the outset of the probe, that the Mercedes carrying Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed, Henri Paul, and body-guard Trevor Rees-Jones, collided with a slow-moving white Fiat Uno at the entrance of the Place de l'Alma tunnel, and this contributed to the fatal crash.

A number of eyewitnesses told French investigators that they saw a white Fiat Uno flee the tunnel, seconds after the crash, and disappear into the night. Despite a nationwide dragnet, the French police *claimed* that they were never able to find the car, nor identify the driver.

However, the French authorities did, in fact, seize the white Fiat owned by Andanson, which he had painted and sold shortly after the crash. Forensic tests on the car confirmed that the paint and bumper scratches matched those on the



This photo, published in EIR of Dec. 19, 1997, was taken by closed-circuit cameras near the Ritz Hotel in Paris on Aug. 30, 1997, shortly before Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed were murdered. The men to the rear are believed to be part of a team that was surveilling them.

Mercedes, strongly suggesting that Andanson's car had been involved in the crash. Yet, Andanson presented a paper-thin alibi, that he was not in Paris the night of the crash, and the authorities released the Fiat and took Andanson off their suspects list!

Andanson's death in May was followed, days later, by an armed burglary on the offices of the Paris photo service where he worked. Three armed men wearing ski masks shot a security guard, and held employees hostage, while they ransacked the offices and confiscated what were believed to be computer files and cameras owned by Andanson. A source in Paris confirmed to *EIR* that the modus operandi of the burglars showed that they were working for French security services, and knew that they were in no danger of being caught.

These startling revelations, which also first appeared in *EIR* on July 7, 2000, added to the already-existing evidence that the official French decision to shut down the investigation, was a flagrant cover-up. The final one-page statement by investigating magistrate Hervé Stephan exonerated all of the paparazzi and place exclusive blame on Henri Paul. Thus, by failing to indict any of the paparazzi for manslaughter, or even for failing to obey France's strict "good samaritan" laws, which require that eyewitnesses to a crash assist the victims, the French government was able to withhold from the public, the 60,000-page report.

It was as if the Warren Commission had issued its final report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but kept the 26 volumes of evidence under seal!

More Unanswered Questions

Apart from the mysterious death of Andanson, the French "bungling" of the probe of his white Fiat Uno, the British

surveillance team at the Ritz Hotel, and the "carbon monoxide" paradox of the Paul blood sample, there are other unanswered questions that must be resolved before anyone can dismiss Al Fayed's charges of murder.

At the Washington press conference, and in several media appearances afterwards, Macnamara cited evidence, obtained by American investigative reporter Gerald Posner, that Paul was on the payroll of several security services: the French, the British, and, perhaps, the Israeli. Posner wrote in *Talk* magazine last year that two American intelligence officials in Paris had told him that Paul had spent the early evening of Aug. 30, 1997, meeting with his French intelligence "handler," and had been paid the equivalent of \$2,500 in French francs, money that was found in his pocket after the crash, in which he died instantly.

Paul took a circuitous route from the Ritz to Dodi Fayed's Paris apartment, a route that ultimately led him into the Alma tunnel. Was Paul acting on instructions from his intelligence agency controllers, who may have, in effect, set him up for murder? The U.S. files being sought by Al Fayed may shed light on this, given Posner's own source accounts, and given that the National Security Agency has acknowledged that it has more than 1,000 pages of files on Princess Diana.

Another mystery surrounding the events of Aug. 31, 1997 concerns the failure of French emergency rescue teams to get Princess Diana to a hospital for nearly two hours *after* they arrived at the crash site. As Macnamara told the Washington press corps, Princess Diana was suffering from the same internal injuries as President Ronald Reagan, when he was shot in March 1981. President Reagan, already in his 70s, was rushed to the hospital and he survived, after surgery to repair a torn pulmonary artery.

Princess Diana was “treated” at the Alma tunnel for an hour, and then it took an additional 43 minutes to drive her, by ambulance, to the La Pitié Salpêtrière hospital—just five miles from the crash site! She died moments before she was brought into surgery.

French officials claimed that French emergency rescue procedures are different from those used in America, and that French emergency rescue vehicles are “mobile surgery units.” However, a senior French doctor—who designed the Paris emergency response system—told *EIR* in 1997 that Diana should have been in surgery in a hospital within 25-30 minutes after the rescue crews arrived. Under such “standard procedures,” especially for VIPs, Diana would have been alive today, the doctor opined.

The emergency response and the forensic investigation at the Alma tunnel was personally directed by Philippe Massoni, the police chief of Paris. Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement was at the hospital, in minute-to-minute contact with the teams at the tunnel, an hour before Diana arrived. What do these senior French officials know about the bungling of the rescue effort?

High-Level Politics

As *EIR* reported from day one, the death of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed was not a story of star-crossed lovers. Rather, it was an affair of state.

Princess Diana, from no later than 1990, was publicly challenging the authority of the House of Windsor—first, in her collaboration with author Andrew Morton, and later in her November 1995 television appearance on BBC Panorama. In that two-hour interview, Princess Diana declared that Prince Charles was unqualified to serve as King. As a member of the Spencer family, which had descended from British royalty long before the Hanover/Windsors migrated from Germany, Princess Diana’s *political* attacks on the Royals represented a very significant challenge to the authority of the British monarchy. Following her BBC appearance, Princess Diana was the target of a vile smear campaign by the Establishment media, which demanded, “Off with her head!” This was a year and a half before her relationship with Dodi Fayed began.

This declaration of war by Diana was not lost on the Royals—particularly on Prince Philip, as noted in a chillingly ironic piece that appeared in the British media on the morning of the Princess’s death. On Sunday, Aug. 31, 1997, the *Mirror* had written:

“At Balmoral next week, the Queen will preside over a meeting of The Way Ahead Group where the Windsors sit down with their senior advisers and discuss policy matters. MI6 has prepared a special report on the Egyptian-born Fayed which will be presented to the meeting. . . .

“A friend of the Royals said yesterday: ‘Prince Philip has let rip several times recently about the Fayed. . . . He’s been banging on about his contempt for Dodi and how he is undesirable as a future stepfather to William and Harry.’ Diana has

been told in no uncertain terms about the consequences should she continue the relationship with the Fayed boy. . . . Now the Royal Family may have decided it is time to settle up.”

Moments before that edition of the *Sunday Mirror* appeared on newsstands all across Great Britain, Princess Diana was pronounced dead.

‘The Reality Is That It Was Murder’

On Aug. 29, Mohamed Al Fayed released a videotaped statement that was played at a Washington, D.C. press conference, given by Harrods security director John Macnamara and attorneys Mark Zaid and Ian Burton. Al Fayed’s statement appears below in its entirety.

Three years ago, on Aug. 31, 1997, I lost my beloved son Dodi and a dear friend, Diana, Princess of Wales, in a tragic event in Paris, France. The car crash that took the lives of these two lovely people has been portrayed as a traffic accident caused by a drunk driving at high speed. The reality is that it was murder. The person portrayed as the drunk driver was Henri Paul, the second in charge of security at the Paris Ritz Hotel. According to reputable sources, Henri Paul spent at least three years in the employ of MI6, the British foreign intelligence service.

We have forensic proof, which has been submitted to the Court of Appeals in Paris, that the blood sample upon which the French are relying to prove that Henri Paul was drunk, in fact contained over 21% carbon monoxide. This fact seriously calls into question whether the blood was his, for Henri Paul died instantaneously upon impact and could not have breathed in the noxious fumes. The statement issued by the French authorities that Henri Paul was three times over the legal limit [for alcohol] was issued within 36 hours of the crash and before his body samples had even been analyzed. This is but one example of the disinformation being disseminated, which I believe is being orchestrated by the British security services in their attempt to cover up the truth.

Since that tragic day three years ago, I have not rested in my search for the truth. From the irrefutable facts which have been uncovered, it is clear to me that evil and racist forces, working through the British security services, murdered my son and Princess Diana. MI6 is controlled by the Establishment of the United Kingdom. They answer ultimately to the Royal Household, which would never have accepted my son, a naturally tanned, curly-haired Egyptian, being married to the mother of the future King of England and becoming his stepfather. The drama of Romeo and Juliet continues to repeat itself almost 500 years after William Shakespeare penned his tragic story.