

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Criminal intelligence analyst and religion expert respond to Norway attacks

Two renowned experts from London Metropolitan University have responded to the Norway attacks.

Professor Jeff Haynes is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation at London Met and is recognised as an international authority on religion and international relations.

On the attacks in Norway, Jeff has questioned labelling accused terrorist Anders Behring Breivik as a 'fundamentalist Christian'.

"Nothing that has appeared so far indicates that his ideas were influenced by any aspects of Christianity", he said.

"Instead, his ideology appears to have been motivated by his hatreds - of Muslims and 'Marxists' - rather than by a love of Christian ideals, norms or values.

"From what can be ascertained at this stage, it appears that Breivik is a baptised Protestant who hardly went to church. In other words, he is a typical Norwegian, not an aberration."

Dr Nick Ridley is a senior lecturer in Policing and Security at London Met and has more than 20 years experience as a criminal intelligence analyst for the Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard and at Europol, the EU law enforcement agency in The Hague.

As a result of the attacks, Nick said there will likely be "intensive profiling of right wing groups by law enforcement authorities who hitherto judged such groups to be dormant and inactive (as indeed they still maybe, if Breivik's actions are his alone)"

Nick said there could be "a possible realignment in resources, from totally monitoring religious extremist groups to switching slightly more focus on right wing political groups."

"Then there will be other countries, including the UK, confirming or eliminating any links with right-wing extremist groups. Interestingly, Breivik has stated his admiration of the Dutch right wing anti Muslim politician Gert Wilders, citing him as an inspiration."

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Notes to editors:

Professor Jeff Haynes is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation at London Metropolitan University. He is recognised as an international authority in five separate areas: religion and international relations; religion and politics; democracy and democratisation; development studies; and comparative politics and globalisation. He has written many books, journal articles and book chapters, totalling around 160 such publications since 1986. They include a 17,000-word discussion paper for the Geneva-based United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 'Religion, Fundamentalism and Identity: A Global Perspective' (1995) and a 15,000-word study for the Commonwealth Secretariat, 'Political Transformation in the Commonwealth' (2009).

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Dr Nick Ridley is a senior lecturer in Policing and Security. He was a criminal intelligence analyst for just over 22 years, firstly at the Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard, working in various departments including Special Branch and the Anti Terrorist Branch; and then at Europol, the EU law enforcement agency in The Hague. At both Scotland Yard and Europol he specialised in organised crime from south east Europe, financial crime and financing of terrorism. At Europol he was attached to the Anti Terrorist Unit where he was responsible for the operational analysis of financing of terrorism. In 2002 he was seconded to the FBI headquarters Washington, engaged on analysis on financing of terrorism.

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