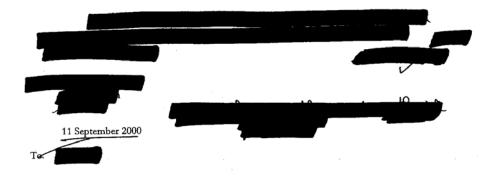


"Mr Andrew Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the immigration status of Abu Hamza; and if he will make a statement...

Angela Eagle: The police are well aware of the statements made by this individual in recent weeks and are monitoring the situation and are considering whether any offences have been committed."

15/01/03

Extract from House of Commons Hansard debates for 15/01/03: -Mr Andrew Dismore: "May I ask my Right Hon. Friend the Home Secretary to look again at taking action against those who incite such violence? I am referring to Abu Hamza, for example, who, incidentally, was given permission to remain in the United Kingdom by the previous Government. May I remind my Right Hon. Friend that when Abu Hamza spoke in Burnley four years ago - Burnley is not that far from Manchester - he used language to incite precisely such violent knife attacks on what he called "non-believers". What happened last night was exactly the sort of incidents that Abu Hamza has been inciting for many years. Is it not time to take such threats and statements seriously, and to take action against Abu Hamza and others of his ilk? Mr Blunkett: My Hon. Friend has been assiduous in rightly pursuing these incidents and issues -- as I have -- to ensure that the Metropolitan police and, where necessary, the security services evaluate the words and the actions of individuals such as the one mentioned this afternoon. We all know how difficult this matter is, given that there are those who are very careful not to overstep the mark. Baroness Thatcher had exactly the same problems with this individual - this is not a party political point - way back in 1990-91. Real attempts were made to deal with him, but his care in not crossing the line caused the then Government and the police to back off. However, make no mistake about it: every word and every action is being monitored, and we need to do so in a way that secures the confidences of people who are sick and tired of individuals like him abusing our hospitality."



## ABU HAMZA

- 2. Abu Hamza (a.k.a. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa) was born in Egypt in 1958. He entered the UK as a tourist in 1979, obtained ILR in 1982 on the basis of marriage to a British citizen and was naturalised under s.6(1) BNA 1981 in 1986.
- 3. Hamza preaches at the Finsbury Park mosque in North London, which serves as a base for his "Supporters of Shariah" group. He is well known for his extreme fundamentalist views, and has been linked in the press with terrorist actions carried out by Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt, Algeria and Yemen.

In May this year Hamza organised a conference of Muslim groups aimed at co-ordinating opposition to the Government's Terrorism Bill and similar legislation in the USA.

