



BBC Panorama – Jihadis you pay for

UKAID – from the British people



Free Syrian Police in Aleppo – Nusra Front headquarters and White Helmets



FREE SYRIAN POLICE 2014 - ALEPPO

OKAIDI COLLABORATED WITH ISIS 2013 - 2014



Britain halts scandal-hit Syrian aid programme




US Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford (left frame above, standing by FSA Col. Okaidi), who worked closely with Okaidi, himself admitted to giving material support to ISIS and al-Nusra, stating that he "absolutely does not deny" knowing that most of the rebels he backed fought alongside ISIS and Nusra.(5)

Levant Report

▶ "The money of British taxpayers is being spent very poorly, it is unfortunately strengthening extremists & Islamic groups, currently in control of majority of "opposition" areas"

▶ BBC Panorama

A close-up photograph of Jeremy Corbyn, a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The background is blurred, showing other people.

"It is the responsibility of your government to ensure robust scrutiny and transparency processes are in place to prevent such grotesque abuses of UK aid money.

Given the humanitarian crisis in Syria, with millions of Syrians internally displaced and millions of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, it is a real concern that your government has appeared to use aid funding to support sectarian division rather than humanitarian need."

Jeremy Corbyn to Theresa May

One of Le Mesurier's colleagues at Ark, Shiyar Mohammed, remembers that before this vital training, volunteers would rush into a bomb site wanting to help, but without any idea what they were doing - which sometimes made things considerably worse.



Chloe Hadjimatheou – Producer of BBC ‘Mayday Series’ – interviewed Alistair Harris and Shiyar Mohammed

Free Syrian Police - James Le Mesurier >



vanessa beeley <vanessab7717@gmail.com>
to Chloe ▾

Sat, Dec 18, 2021, 11:17 AM



Good morning,


I am currently researching a new article and going through the recent ANON release of documents relating to ARK Group (Alistair Harris). Please would you respond to the following questions:

1. Why did the BBC Mayday series fail to mention James Le Mesurier's and ARK's involvement in the establishment of the Free Syrian Police?
2. You interviewed Shiyar S Mohammed who was involved in the creation of the Free Syrian Police with ARK and JLM yet you did not mention the FSP as far as I am aware. Why not?

I may have missed you bringing this up but I don't recall any mention. Happy to be corrected or if I am right perhaps you can let me know why this information was omitted from any BBC articles or the Mayday series?

KR

Vanessa Beeley



Localised Approach: ARK takes an innovative, highly localised approach to communications campaigns, enabling it to engage target audiences at grassroots, national, regional and international levels. As an example, we are currently implementing a CSSF-funded grassroots communications project in Syria providing strategic communications support to civil society, through a contract we have successfully retained since 2012. The project provides media capacity building, communications support and equipment to activists, CSOs and local governance actors and identifies positive coverage of local and donor-funded initiatives to counter regime and extremist narratives. This project has delivered at scale across the country, and has adapted activities to respond to rapid shifts in conflict dynamics on numerous occasions. Independent third-party monitoring of the project in 2017 showed its outputs were highly effective in boosting trust between civil society, local governance actors and civilians, helping to generate increased awareness of and support for positive, moderate initiatives. ARK has also provided communications support to other CSSF-funded projects in Syria such as Syria Civil Defence and the Free Syria Police through posters, booklets and broadcast products, receiving extremely positive feedback which was gathered through large-scale surveys and social medial monitoring.

In Yemen, our communications team is currently providing support to local governance actors and CSOs to promote their service provision activities in local communities, increase their credibility with these audiences and grow community buy-in. ARK previously worked with local production partners to develop content for a social media platform promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding. This was set up in 2016 as part of a wider media mapping project (funded by CSSF) and ARK continues to self-fund this platform. Through its programming in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, ARK worked with a youth-led team to produce a print and online magazine which provided coverage of positive community-based solutions to perennial issues.

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Mayday: How the White Helmets and James Le Mesurier got pulled into a deadly battle for truth

By Chloe Hadjimatheou
BBC News

🕒 27 February 2021

As head of the Istanbul office of Harris's organisation, Ark, one of the projects Le Mesurier's took on focused on training young Syrians to act as firefighters, ambulance drivers and rescuers. Young men and women were already rushing in to help their relatives and neighbours whenever a bomb landed on a residential area, flattening apartments and trapping the residents inside - but often without the necessary skills.

Le Mesurier felt that here at last was an inspiring Western-funded project. In a dark complex war, these were heroes: local people, instinctively trusted by their own communities, doing what they could in a time of crisis. He brought them all together in one organisation and got them professionally trained by the Turkish earthquake rescue specialists, Akut.

James Le Mesurier – Free Syrian Police



Shiyar S. Mohamad is with James Le Mesurier.

12 November 2019 · 🌐

...

[James Le Mesurier](#) You were way more than just a boss and colleague, but a real friend and mentor. You had truly mastered the art of the possible. Despite the lack of appetite and interest on the part of international donors and governments to intervene in Syria, even if to provide humanitarian assistance; your persistence, passion about Syria, unrelenting drive to save innocent lives, but above all your consistently creative ways to seek new donors have made available funding that's saved many lives in Syria.

I've had the privilege to work with you on several projects, including the free police and White Helmets, and needless to say my gradual transition and rise from part time translator to project manager of a major programme was mostly thanks to you.

I say to you now what I should have told you a long time ago, but didn't because you know we had an ongoing battle of banter, practical jokes and sarcasm: I love you mate!



Netherlands cuts funding to White Helmets over Likely Links to Terrorism – September 2018



The White Helmets

Who: the White Helmets

What: Nearly four thousand rescue workers in rebel territory in Syria, providing first aid after bombing. Wear cameras on their helmets and provide proof of possible war crimes by Syrian government forces.

Dutch support: 12.5 million euros.

Issues:

- According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the supervision of the behavior of the rescue workers is 'inadequate'. The organization that supervises, Mayday, based in the Netherlands, is closely intertwined with the White Helmets itself. In practice, donors do not understand the difference between the two organizations.
- Mayday wants to spend a maximum of 0.9% of its budget on supervision of the work of the White Helmets. 'That is why there is a lack of independent supervision of the activities and results of the project.'
- The money for the White Helmets is transferred to the Syrian border in cash or enters the country via the hawala system. It is 'problematic' that Mayday does not know how much money is paid via which route. That is why there is a danger that money has fallen into the hands of armed groups. The cash flow can also indirectly be used for illegal trade. Systematic control of the money flow is missing.
- The White Helmets are active in areas where armed groups are in power that are considered 'unacceptable' for the Netherlands. Contact between the White Helmets and local administrators who work together with extremist organizations is inevitable.

Source: report of the Directorate for International Research and Policy Evaluation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The confession of James le Mesurier

Rescue workers from the White Helmets in Syria risk their lives for a small fee. The directors of the Dutch organisation receiving the grants pay themselves bonuses in cash and borrow money from the safe for their wedding. \$ 50.000 goes missing. Founder James le Mesurier admits fraud three days before he died last year.

By Ana van Es & Anneke Stoffelen

17 juli 2020, 05:00



Emma Le Mesurier
@EmmaMesurier



The [#Netherlands](#) Press Council have agreed to hear my substantive complaint against the [@volkskrant](#) for their baseless smears against JLM and [#Mayday](#).
Hearing date: 11 February 2022.

11:40 AM · Dec 29, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

54 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 179 Likes



Tip



Tweet your reply

Reply



vanessa beeley @VanessaBeeley · Jan 4



Replying to [@EmmaMesurier](#) and [@volkskrant](#)

Emma, can you shed any light on why [@BBC](#) Mayday Series failed to mention your role in providing PR for [#JaishAlIslam](#) while at Incostrat & connection btwn James & Free Syrian Police - exposed by BBC Panorama as siphoning UKFCDO funds to [#AlQaeda](#)?



Tip



Emma Le Mesurier @EmmaMesurier · Dec 29, 2021



Replying to [@EmmaMesurier](#)

This is not an easy road and I'm SO grateful for all your support. I've spent many years defending the so-called MSM against [#disinformation](#) (and will continue) that to find myself fighting [@volkskrant](#) is a horrid irony. [#ForJLM](#)



4



14



41



Tip



Kit Klarenberg @KitKlarenberg · Dec 30, 2021



Replying to [@EmmaMesurier](#) [@Londonstani](#) and [@volkskrant](#)

Emma, do you think you should have to justify in court your allegation that Eleveld killed James? If not, why not?

GRANT THORNTON – MAYDAY RESCUE AUDITORS

GRANT THORNTON

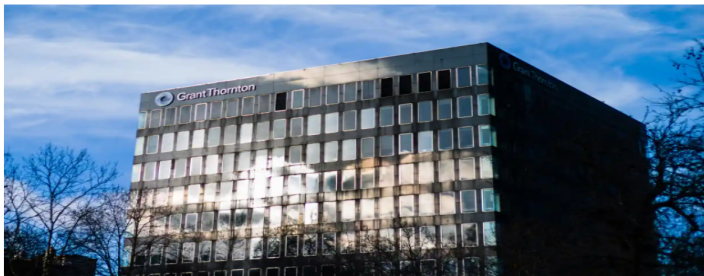
Grant Thornton faces appeal on fraud and negligence lawsuit

By [Michael Cohn](#) August 11, 2020, 5:18 p.m. EDT 8 Min Read

Grant Thornton LLP is awaiting a ruling from an appeals court that's expected to decide in the next few weeks on a case involving a manufacturing company owner who sued the firm for fraud, negligence and other claims after the firm failed to advise him of a tax strategy that potentially could have saved him over a million dollars and then allegedly tried to cover up the error.

Grant Thornton fined over Conviviality audit failures

Regulator imposes penalty for failing to comply with ethical standards and requirements



☛ The Financial Reporting Council reduced Grant Thornton's fine over its Conviviality auditing to £1.95m from £3m for admissions and early disposal. Photograph: Robert Evans/Alamy Stock Photo
The accountancy firm Grant Thornton has been fined £1.95m by the industry regulator for failures during its auditing of the drinks group Conviviality, the owner of off-licence chains including Bargain Booze, which **collapsed in 2018**.

Patisserie Valerie auditors fined £2.3m over 'serious lack of competence'

FRC says Grant Thornton 'missed red flags' and failed to question information from management



☛ Patisserie Valerie collapsed into administration in January 2019 after the failure of talks with banks. Photograph: Martin Godwin/The Guardian

Grant Thornton Loses Fight in UK Top Court Over 32 Million Sterling Swaps Bill

By [Reuters](#) | June 18, 2021, at 7:44 a.m.

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SEC: Grant Thornton Ignored Red Flags in Audits

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2015-272

Washington D.C., Dec. 2, 2015 — The Securities and Exchange Commission today announced that national audit firm Grant Thornton LLP and two of its partners agreed to settle charges that they ignored red flags and fraud risks while conducting deficient audits of two publicly traded companies that wound up facing SEC enforcement actions for improper accounting and other violations.

Grant Thornton admitted wrongdoing and agreed to forfeit approximately \$1.5 million in audit fees and interest plus pay a \$3 million penalty.

1.2.8.



ARK has experience in successfully delivering complex programmes involving multiple donors, the creation of formal or informal delivery consortia (including this submission with Group partner Pursue), and the use of various subject-matter experts (SMEs) and specialised suppliers.

As the **lead implementer of the multi-donor Integrated Community Security Programme** in Syria from 2013-15, ARK was responsible for delivering programmatic effect on behalf of three government donors – the US, the UK, and Denmark – with, at times, distinct national interests and objectives, as well as different rules for budgeting, reporting, and compliance. ARK managed this coordination challenge by initiating the creation of a Project Secretariat, comprised of representatives in capitals and in the field, which ARK treated as its principal point of contact to ensure the programme adopted common objectives, a uniform Monitoring and Evaluation logical framework, and a common risk mitigation matrix, and to ensure that donor decisions were taken collectively in a spirit of full transparency, with accountability shared across all three governments. ARK was also requested to **work in tandem with another implementer (Aktis Strategy)** that was designated to deliver one of six lines of effort. Aktis's lack of prior experience on Syria and its unfamiliarity with ARK and its work culture created a risk of incoherence and inconsistent delivery within the programme. Consequently, ARK worked with donors to clarify in detail the respective responsibilities of the two organisations, and established a number of mechanisms to ensure smooth functioning, transparency, and accountability to the donors, including by confirming ARK's overall responsibility as lead implementer. Practically, this included bringing Aktis into all Secretariat meetings, ensuring the use (and sharing) of common reporting templates, making office space available to Aktis staff within the ARK project office, and ensuring a high level of senior management engagement to de-conflict challenges at the working level.

Former UK diplomats handed millions of pounds of British taxpayers' money for Foreign Office projects cause 'huge damage' to Britain's reputation as firm collapses leaving hundreds out of jobs

- Dr Andrew Rathmell and Alex Martin accused of causing 'huge damage' to Britain's reputation after firm Aktis Strategy collapsed
- Time at Foreign Office helped them to secure major UK Government contracts
- Company was 'leading supplier of security and development programming'
- Over 80 ex-staff owed thousands in unpaid wages and pension contributions

APRIL
2019

An investigation by The Mail on Sunday can reveal:

- **British embassies have refused requests by desperate Aktis staff to settle bills owed to firms across the Middle East and Africa;**
- **More than 80 ex-staff are owed thousands in unpaid wages and pension contributions;**
- **The wife of Britain's ambassador in Iraq quit her senior role with Aktis because she 'saw the writing on the wall';**
- **The 'penny pinching' firm is accused of failing to pay for security teams or health insurance for some field workers in conflict zones;**
- **Bosses blew a six-figure sum on a champagne-fuelled 'retreat' for staff.**

EXCLUSIVE: UK restores Syrian aid project accused of funding 'extremists'

Labour's Kate Osamor demands that Boris Johnson explain the decision, which comes as Oxfam sex scandal puts aid policy in spotlight

A photograph showing two men in military-style camouflage uniforms walking from left to right. The man on the left is wearing a blue beret and carrying a blue bag over his shoulder. The man on the right is wearing a dark beanie. Both are holding rifles. They are walking past a wall made of light-colored bricks or concrete blocks. On the wall, there is a patterned cloth hanging and some graffiti in Arabic. The ground is littered with debris, including a broken wooden frame and some trash. The overall scene suggests a conflict zone or a war-torn area.

FEBRUARY 2018

Recommended

Russia 'tolerates' Israeli strikes in Syria, but has little appetite to restrain Iran

'Israel targets Syria's Latakia port' for second time this month

Tents of displaced Syrians flooded by heavy rain