

The Strange Story of Brenton Tarrant

— BY DR T.J. COLES —

On 15 March 2019, Brenton Tarrant – reportedly the Australian son of a triathlete who died young¹ – murdered 51 unarmed worshippers at two mosques; Al Noor and the Linwood Islamic Centre, in Christchurch, New Zealand. In August 2020, Tarrant was sentenced to life without parole.

But little adds up. Like the Norwegian killer Anders Breivik before him, Tarrant claims to have made a fortune with a cryptocurrency, in this case, the scam BitConnect.² Between 2016 and 2018, he or someone purporting to be him travelled to Argentina, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Turkey (several times, after which there was an attempted coup against Prime Minister Erdoğan, whom Tarrant later criticised in his manifesto), the Greek islands of Crete and Santorini (twice), and Ukraine.³ Tarrant's most bizarre and inexplicable visit was to North Korea with an undisclosed

▼ (Below left) NZ police arrest Tarrant. (Below right) Another man was arrested wearing combat fatigues but media said he had no connection to Tarrant.



▲ Screenshot from Brenton Tarrant's live-streamed video.

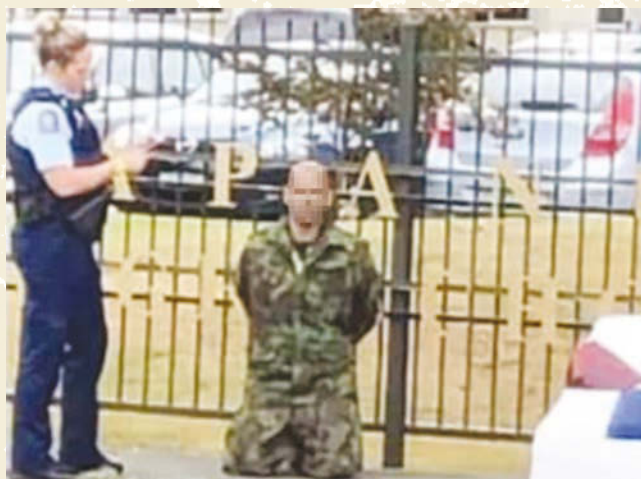
“friendship association.” A financially lucky travel-addict or a state asset?

Elements of the neo-Nazi Ukrainian outfit, the National Defense Organisation (Carpathian Sich), reportedly translated Tarrant's white supremacist manifesto, *The Great Replacement*.⁴

Two days before the massacre, Europe and Asia lost access to Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. But New Zealand appeared to be hit hardest.⁵ Was this a coincidence

or pre-emption: to control what people see, share, and download? Tarrant (or purported) sent copies of his manifesto to high-level politicians in New Zealand, including the Prime Minister, as well as to 70 media outlets. Twenty minutes before the massacre, Tarrant (or purported) posted on the online forum 8chan of his plan to livestream the massacre.⁶

It is reported that at approximately 1.40pm local time, Tarrant entered Al Noor Mosque, shooting 42





▲ Brenton Tarrant was sentenced to life without parole after he pleaded guilty to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and a terrorism charge.

◀ Tarrant on a visit to Pakistan in 2018 (from his Facebook page).

people dead. Upon leaving, Tarrant allegedly shot another person on the pavement before driving to the Linwood Mosque, at which point the livestream reportedly cut. Tarrant continued the massacre and planned to murder worshippers at the Ashburton Mosque because it has previously been a church. Before he could get there, police rammed his car and arrested him.

As in the Breivik case (and countless other terror attacks before), there just so happened to be a counterterrorism drill taking place in Christchurch at the same time. National radio described it as a “quirky stroke of timing.”⁷

Despite the apparent *prima facie* evidence of Tarrant’s livestream, he was initially charged with a single murder, allegedly due to police error on the charge sheet. Even more bizarre is the fact that the person he allegedly shot had not at that point died, meaning that Tarrant was initially charged for a single murder which at the time he did not commit. The New Zealand court ordered that the victim not be named.⁸ In light of these events, the New Zealand police stated that they consulted with the Crown Law and Christchurch Crown Solicitors Office before updating the charges against Tarrant.⁹

Social media took unprecedented, coordinated steps of suppressing uploads of the murder video. Within hours, the Global Internet Forum to

Counter Terrorism had found 800 different versions of the video.¹⁰ The videos are horribly pixelated for the usually high-quality GoPro. They show piles of corpses before Tarrant had even entered certain areas of the mosque. The movements of the people depicted are impossibly fast.

Was the massacre a real event conducted by special forces, but the video fake and designed to make it look like a single killer? With the exception of the worshipper who allegedly said to Tarrant, “Welcome, brother,” no facial identities, other than Tarrant’s, can be discerned.

One Stephen Millar was arrested outside Papanui High School wearing combat fatigues. The *New Zealand Herald* reported, rather improbably: “Millar said he had been wearing camouflage clothing since he was a child. He always wore it, although he had quit the habit today – temporarily.”¹¹ Millar also claimed that he told the police that he was unarmed. But the *Daily Mail* reported: Police “released [Millar] *who had taken a gun as protection* when he went to pick up his kids from school”¹² (emphasis added).

One of the Noor mosque survivors, Adrian Wright, said that he used his navy training to tackle Tarrant. Wright turns out to be a deck officer who had worked for private maritime security companies.¹³ The presence of a maritime security expert sets the pattern continued in

the Bærum Mosque shooting (Norway), allegedly by Philip Manshaus, whose massacre was reportedly prevented by a worshipper, Mohammad Rafiq, who happens to be an ex-Pakistani Air Force serviceman.¹⁴

All very strange. ▲

FOOTNOTES

1. <https://web.archive.org/web/20200922152505/https://www.questia.com/newspaper/1G1-234958861/rodney-got-most-out-of-short-life-rodney-tarrant>
2. <https://davidgerard.co.uk/block-chain/2019/03/15/no-the-new-zealand-mosque-shooter-didnt-make-his-money-in-bitconnect>
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4. www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/Islamophobia-AntiMuslim/Civil%20Society%20or%20Individuals/Razomiz-zakonom.pdf
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6. <https://ctc.usma.edu/christchurch-attacks-livestream-terror-viral-video-age/>
7. Newstalk ZB, 15 March 2019
8. www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-47649833
9. www.police.govt.nz/news/release/further-charges-filed-following-march-15-attack-christchurch
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11. www.news.com.au/world/pacific/camouflage-wearer-claims-wrongful-arrest-over-christchurch-mosque-shootings/news-story/713f078527783e199f6d0ad5d74ab490
12. www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6815593/Brenton-Tarrant-faces-court-charged-Christchurch-terror-attack.html
13. <http://maritime-connector.com/seafarer/adrian-wright-3rd-officer-tanker/46636>
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