How Falcons Nearly Brought Down Bin Laden

A bird expert knew where bin Laden was. Why didn’t the U.S. government go after him?
a lawyer for spies and whistleblowers. One of my most unusual clients obtained an electronic tracking device for Osama bin Laden’s traveling entourage, but for eight years the Bush administration refused to capture bin Laden when they could. Within 1,000 days of Obama giving the order, bin Laden was dead.

This is an ugly story, but it will also be true.

From time to time I have been of some small service to my country as a back channel lawyer for the U.S. Intelligence Community. Under Florida law, I am allowed to completely shield my client’s anonymity under the Attorney-Client privilege. There are not many lawyers who have held Top Secret COSMIC SCI security clearances who do pro bono work. Words gets around.

I have more than 60 clients; they usually pay me one dollar each. I am perhaps the worst paid lawyer in America, but among the better informed. I have been called as an expert witness by Congress, as well as the governments of Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Most of my work has been highly classified. This time, I can talk about it.

Several years ago, I was approached by Alan Parrot (pronounced Pah ROW). He is the CEO of the Union for the Conservation of Raptors, a respected international charity. Alan is an American of the Sikh faith. He was once the chief falconer for the Shah of Iran and worked for the royal families of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He lives in his home state of Maine, wears a white turban and gold bracelets, and is a practiced falconer. His hobby is hunting.

Bin Laden used to host falcon hunting parties as fundraisers for al-Qaeda. Hundreds of wealthy Arabs would pay up for these events, which lasted for days. They came with luxury vehicles; some specially equipped with sliding roof panels and electric seat risers so that the hunters and their birds could observe their prey in perfect comfort. Their prey was a fat pheasant known as the Hubara Bustard. Osama would tear off the meat, cool, sleeping on an expensive plush carpet, singing war songs by the campfire. Osama had the latest hunting equipment. Each of his falcons wore a collar, which explains his sallow, almost yellow complexion. Years ago, the Saudi intelligence service donated two kidney dialysis machines to the Taliban. One was for the major hospital in Kabul, which is still in use. The other was for Osama’s personal use.

Only, Osama’s kidney machine was rigged. Instead of curing him, it was slowly poisoning him. Osama figured out what was happening, and began to prepare the bird, and they would feast. It was a great party, great hunting. The government of Iran had closed these mountain sanctuaries to all falcon hunters—except Osama bin Laden.

After 9/11, bin Laden was arguably the most hunted man on earth. According to Alan’s source, the government of Iran allowed him to spend four to six months a year in their country to receive medical treatment, visit his family, and hunt.

I knew part of this story from other sources. Osama had a problem with his kidneys, which explains his sallow, almost yellow complexion. Years ago, the Saudi intelligence service donated two kidney dialysis machines to the Taliban. One was for the major hospital in Kabul, which is still in use. The other was for Osama’s personal use.

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I am not quite sure how to describe this. It is the sport of Arab kings, and it is the favorite hobby of Osama Bin Laden. You might even say it is Osama’s only addiction.
was killed in a firefight with U.S. forces on Sunday, May 1, ending a nearly
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden
Surrounded by red fabric, the compound in Abbotabad in Pakistan’s

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Al Qaeda is a terrorist network that has been in existence since the early 1980s. It was formed by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi national, who was influenced by the extremist clerics of Iran's Islamic Republic.

On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda carried out the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States. The attack resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93.

After 9/11, the United States and its allies launched a campaign to overthrow the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and to dismantle Al Qaeda. The campaign led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the United States launched a global war on terrorism, targeting not only Al Qaeda, but also other extremist groups.

Since 9/11, the United States has engaged in several military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries. These operations have resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and military personnel.

The United States has also faced criticism for the use of torture and indefinite detention without trial in the war on terrorism.

In recent years, there has been a shift in American policy towards the use of drone strikes in countries such as Pakistan and Yemen. These strikes have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians and have raised concerns about the use of force in the war on terrorism.

It is important to continue to monitor and address the threat posed by extremist groups to ensure the safety and security of Americans and people around the world.