
Seeking Truth from the Shadows

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By Zainab Cheema Muslim Link Staff Writer

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Or perhaps you've glimpsed the craters in the official story for 2001's watershed event through Enver Masud, the engineer turned public truth-seeker who is publishing his book, *9/11 Unveiled*, currently available on Amazon.com.

Masud is well known in many circles as the founder and principal manager of The Wisdom Fund, a website established in 1995 as a clearinghouse for fresh, engaging analyses on key political and public-interest issues. Based in the DC-VA metropolitan area, Masud became interested in the 9/11 narrative on the fateful day itself. In the preface, he recalls looking down at the Pentagon fires from his office space and thinking, "where's the plane?"

The question launched off a vigorous research project that emerged through his writings from that time to the present, culminating the concise resource book that collects all the agreed upon facts within the 9/11 truth movement. In a recent interview, Masud talks about the genesis of the book.

"I was on a lecture tour in South Africa for my other book, *The War on Islam*, which presents all the articles I've written on that theme since 1991 when I realized the need for a book specifically on 9/11," Masud explains. "I wanted something short and to the point, in the style of an executive summary. There are a lot of good books on 9/11—for instance, David Ray Griffith is an excellent writer—but all of them are pretty lengthy. My book is a quick read and you can find all the references, from videos to photographs on The Wisdom Fund website."

9/11 Unveiled begins with an effective quote by the German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer: "All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as self evident." Masud believes that we are in the first stage, where the truth is being ridiculed or dismissed as a conspiracy theory in the mainstream media.

"It's amazing but we can have 10 Jewish people demonstrate against the Sudanese embassy and you get it all over the national news media," he says. "With an event of this importance, there is nothing. Reps Cynthia McKinney and John Conyers held a hearing on 9/11 in Congress but they weren't even able to a decent room. Finally, they got a basement room somewhere. Jesse Ventura, former governor of Minnesota, is speaking out about this, but they ignore him too."

"However, 9/11 truth movement is slowly gaining steam," he reveals. "There is a lot effort to bring forward a new, independent investigation by the scholarly community, the engineering community, and various celebrities. Even the family members of those who died in 9/11 are asking for a new investigation. There is a lot of movement but it just hasn't gained enough momentum for the mass media to take notice other than to ridicule it. But I and many others continue to work to bring this to the surface because we believe that there is a tipping point."

9/11 Unveiled quotes some startling statistics that buttress such a hope for a tipping point. For instance, a 2006 Schipps Howard polls shows that one-third of all Americans believe that federal officials either assisted 9/11 or wittingly did nothing in order to provoke a war with the Middle East. Another poll estimated that 50% of all New Yorkers disbelieved in the government's account of 9/11.

Masud's credentials testify to both the expertise he personally brings to the critique of the 9/11 story, and to his

dedication to the obscure and thankless cause of promoting the truth. As described in his online bio, he has worked as an engineering management consultant for the World Bank and USAID and managed the U.S. Department of Energy's National Power Grid Study. For his efforts to expose waste in the electricity sector, he has been recognized in numerous TV, radio, and newspaper reports. His commitment to exhaustive research and accuracy has levied a tax on him through his career.

"My speaking out at the Department of Energy has cost me at least a million dollars in consulting fees," he reveals. "The government doesn't want to listen to the best information but to what helps them politically. However, when you come from a family like mine, it's impossible not to value the truth. My father, who worked with one of the leaders of India's independence movement, Maulana Azad, once lay down on the train tracks to stop a train."

"At first when I started to move towards the conclusion that the results of the 9/11 Commission Investigation was totally flawed, I felt a tremendous sense of awe," says Masud. "How could I make a pronouncement against something so big as the government, with all of its resources and experts? However, my background in managing large projects, resolving political roadblocks, managing multi-disciplinary investigations, and working in many countries gave me confidence. For me, this was another multidisciplinary investigation. Today, I would have no hesitation in debating any government representative on the real 9/11 story."

Masud reveals that a South African national talk show did indeed extend an invitation to the US embassy to send a representative to discuss 9/11 with him on air, but met with a refusal.

Masud's engineering expertise arms him with extensive design and structural knowledge, allowing him to persuasively make the case that the World Trade towers were brought down by synchronized explosions rather than by the planes crashing into the buildings. His research into modern geopolitics maps the crass urge for power that led the government to search for such a catalyst. "In a paper presented to then head of the National Security Committee Condoleezza Rice," he reveals, "neocon policy analyst Philip Zelikow argued that in order for the United States to attain its geopolitical aims, it would need another Pearl Harbor. So, 9/11 was the new Pearl Harbor that got us into the wars with Afghanistan and Iraq."

Masud also reveals how the Bush administration sidetracked the public's demand for a commission to investigate 9/11, which it adamantly opposed, by appointing Zelikow as Executive Director of the Commission. Zelikow then proceeded to draft the Commission's report down to the headings and subheadings, before the Commission even had time to assemble. "The 9/11 Commission Report is actually very well written," wryly notes Masud, "I'd recommend it as a work of fiction."

Masud believes that foreign audiences are in general, better educated about 9/11 than domestic audiences. "When I lectured in South Africa and India, I found that audiences were much more exposed than American audiences. It's hard to draw a crowd at home. My natural allies that would set up talks, like ISNA, MPAC, and the mosques, avoid this issue entirely. In fact, I had a talk scheduled at a large mosque at Detroit that got canceled by the board at the last minute, because they got scared."

A particularly sad rill of the 9/11 story is that the devastating Iraq War launched by the event eventually became the truth movement's salvation. "The rationale for the war on Iraq—weapons of mass destruction—soon unraveled, [giving] momentum to the '9/11 Truth' movement," Masud writes in his book.

Considering the foreign and domestic horror unleashed by 9/11, the Muslim American's community's apathy in confronting his issue has had profound consequences. "I know most of the Muslim leaders in the DC area personally," says Masud, "I get invited to their affairs and everything, but they don't do anything with the information I am presenting."

"Just look at the Jewish community or the right-wing Heritage Foundation. When a person speaks out, they support them because it supports their agenda. But our folks, they don't support a person like me even when it supports their agenda because they are scared."

Despite the lack of institutional support, Masud finds the will to keep on going.

"My faith requires me to do what I am doing; the values my parents instilled in my cause me to do what I am doing," he says. "It's the single biggest issue that is affecting the Muslim world today. Two wars have been launched as a result. Many countries have changed their laws because of it. Every dissident movement is being labeled as terrorist as a justification for extending government powers. It's the single biggest issue confronting Americans and Muslims, and we have the most to lose when our leaders say nothing about it."

To learn more about Enver Masud's work or to purchase his new book, "9/11 Unveiled", visit <http://www.twf.org>.