

Public Domain

by Steve Krulick, Senior Civics Columnist

Truther, Birther, Deather, Part 1

"It's the cover-up that hurts... If you cover-up, you're going to get caught."— President Richard Nixon, caught on White House tapes

When I heard May 1st that Osama Bin Laden (OBL) was dead, my first reaction was, "What... again?"

After all, sporadically since 2002, OBL had been reported dead by at least nine credible sources, including American, French, and Saudi leaders or high-ranking government officials, even Pakistani President Zardari and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who said it point-blank to interviewer David Frost just weeks before she herself was assassinated.

Soon after the official White House announcement, I posted the following on *Facebook* "Don't expect his body to be made available for any forensic analysis; like the steel girders of the WTC, which were carted away before they could be examined objectively... he will be 'liquidated' before anything can be proven." Three hours later, the *New York Times* reported OBL was hastily "buried at sea," supposedly to "honor" Muslim protocol. Well, that's about as "liquidated" as you can get!

The story out of Abbottabad (Abbott-a-bing) was already sounding like a lame Hollywood script, but this "sleeping with the fishes" *Godfather* touch told me something was really fishy. And the DNA test already came back positive? (That quick? I thought it took days, and where did they get the baseline samples from?) So there you have it... proof-positive... the end... move along folks, nothing more to see here.

How convenient.

But merely because *they* said so? No video, no photos, no autopsy, no documents, no objective confirmation from anyone not on the U.S. government payroll. Hmmm.

And then, quickly, over the next few days, the script kept changing and unraveling, with shreds of the Bruckheimer-esque action-packed dramatics cluttering up the cutting-room floor.

Forty-minute intense fire-fight? Uh, no, that didn't happen. OBL used his wife as a shield? Uh, nope. She was killed... she was not killed... she wasn't his wife. He had a gun... then he didn't. He was in pajamas... he was naked. He resisted... then he hadn't. He was killed immediately (Head? Chest? Eye?)... he was dragged outside and shot. It was a capture mission... it was a kill mission. 25 Navy SEALs... no, 79. Million-dollar compound... ratty block house with no air conditioning (was it two floors or three floors high?), next to Pakistan's West Point, no less. Pakistani officials (who were not involved, then were involved, then were not involved again) have even suggested that there wasn't a shot fired in the raid. Neighbors in the immediate vicinity find it laughable and beyond ridiculous to suggest that OBL was living there for six years without their knowledge.

A grisly photo of dead OBL is released... but is retracted when pointed out it was a fake Photoshopped effort from over a year ago. Then, they can't show us the "too grisly" *real* photos of OBL, but can show three dead somebodies (First, OBL's son Khalid was killed... no, it was a different son, Hamza). A dramatic picture shows the White House security team intensely watching the mission live... then we're told the video feed was shut off before the SEALs entered, so they couldn't be watching any such thing. CIA Director Leon Panetta's interview on *PBS* began by saying the CIA had no evidence and were entirely uncertain OBL was even in the compound to begin with!

Then, supposedly, Al-Qaeda itself confirms OBL's death.

What, were they allowed into the "compound," or to view the body? Turns out, the confirmation isn't from Al-Qaeda itself, but from a US government-sponsored contractor, the *SITE Institute*, already linked to previous faked OBL videos and messages!

"New" OBL videos are released where he looks in better shape than he did in 2001... but they turn out to be re-runs from 2007, which themselves were edited re-runs from earlier. Oh, and the CIA has already admitted to making fake OBL videos.

Well, since OBL probably died of renal failure in late 2001 (as reported by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. David Ray Griffin), being a complication of Marfan Syndrome (as suggested by Dr. Steve R. Pieczenik, who served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under Kissinger, Vance, and Baker), it's not surprising that the conflicting stories were not grounded in any actual substance, and all this hush-hush dramatic fuss is rather puzzling, if not downright absurd. Pieczenik would be in a position to know, having worked directly with OBL when the US

(and Saudis and Pakistanis) funded and armed him and the Mujahideen to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan, back when CIA-asset OBL was one of our "good guys." Pieczenik, a Navy captain and psychiatrist (and real-life model for Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan character), later turned terrorist-hunter and hostage-negotiator during subsequent administrations, wrote the standard work on psyops operations, and still advises the Pentagon. (An impeccably-credentialed whistleblower, he is also prepared to tell a federal grand jury the name of the general on Paul Wolfowitz's staff who told him that 9/11 was a false-flag inside job and not planned or run by OBL or Al Qaeda at all.)

"I found out through my sources that he had had kidney disease. And as a physician, I knew that he had to have two dialysis machines and he was dying."

In July 2001, OBL was flown to the American Hospital in Dubai for kidney treatment. According to French intelligence sources, he was met there by the local CIA attaché. On the eve of September 11th, OBL was in a Pakistani military hospital under the watchful eye of Pakistan's ISI, their equivalent of the CIA, with deep ties to the American intelligence community.

With his kidney dialysis machines destroyed in East Afghanistan, if he had been living in caves and bunkers in the mountains between Afghanistan and Pakistan, OBL would have been deprived of the dialysis equipment he needed to live (BTW, no mention of any such units being found in Abbottabad).

In October 2001, OBL appeared in a tape looking pale and gaunt. In December 2001, another videotape was released, showing a seriously ill OBL, seemingly unable to move his left arm. On December 26, 2001, *Fox News* reported on a *Pakistan Observer* story that the Afghan Taliban had officially pronounced OBL dead earlier that month. According to the report, he was buried less than 24 hours later in an unmarked grave in accordance with Wahabbist Sunni practices.

On January 18, 2002, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf announced bluntly: "I think now, frankly, he is dead."

On July 17, 2002, then-head of counterterrorism at the FBI, Dale Watson, told a conference of law enforcement officials that "I personally think he [OBL] is probably not with us anymore."

In October 2002, Afghan President Hamid Karzai told *CNN* that "I would come to believe that [OBL] probably is dead."

In March 2009, former US foreign intelligence officer and professor of international relations at Boston University Angelo Codevilla stated: "All the evidence suggests Elvis Presley is more alive today than Osama Bin Laden."

In May 2009, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari confirmed that his "counterparts in the American intelligence agencies" hadn't heard anything from Bin Laden in seven years and confirmed "I don't think he's alive."

In addition to Pieczenik, a high level Republican source repeated in 2002 that OBL was dead and that his body was being kept "on ice" until his death could be announced at the most "politically expedient" time. When asked if his claim was mere speculation or whether it was actually true, the source re-iterated the fact that he was being deadly serious and that OBL's corpse was "physically on ice," to be rolled out for public consumption (well, not literally, I hope!) at the most opportune moment.

Many expected that to be right before the 2004 election, but after Democrats began speculating about such a possibility, Republicans settled instead for a fake OBL video tape that even skeptical veteran newsmen Walter Cronkite labeled a farce and a Karl Rove-orchestrated "set-up." In February 2007, Professor Bruce Lawrence, head of Duke University's Religious Studies program and an expert on OBL and the content of his messages, stated that the purported video and audio tapes of OBL that were being released were fake and that he was probably dead.

So, after all this, why did Obama pick this May 1st (same day Hitler was announced dead in 1945; same day the Bavarian Order of the Illuminati was founded in 1776; also Beltane, one of the pagan high holy days) to play the Osama card, with no more evidence than any of the previous announcements offered? Why was there such re-writing and fumbling with the original script? Why has any question about the veracity or accuracy of this story labeled such questioners as "Deaths" who "wouldn't be satisfied no matter what evidence was presented," just as so-called "Birthers" were derided identically the previous week when they were confronted with Obama's supposed long-form birth certificate and dared to point out unexplained anomalies?

In the next part, I will tie these two threads together, and show how they relate to the so-called "Truther" movement, which challenges the "official" government conspiracy theory about 9/11 that made OBL the Emmanuel Goldstein-esque bogeyman to "justify" several illegal invasions and occupations, millions dead, injured, orphaned, or displaced, trillions of dollars spent or stolen, and the shredding of our Constitution and its rights.