

# Leafy Loughton

by **Esmerelda Weatherwax** (September 2009)

here. This isn't really an update, merely some further information and a few more thoughts.

As I said, I have been following the story of Mr Noor Ramjanally of the pleasant Essex town of Loughton and his allegations of increasing threats for his attempts to spread Islamic worship in town.

I know Loughton, so, some background.

It is a town to the North east of London, just outside the Greater London boundary so it comes under Essex County Council but it is served by London Underground on the Central Line.

The area called Loughton, which includes Buckhurst Hill and some might include Chigwell (if you watched the TV series [Loughton Masjid](#) which gives the impression to the casual observer that the Borders Lane address is solely that of a Mosque. [Leyton and Walthamstow](#), with the Lea Bridge Road and Queen's Road Mosques.

All over the country local residents are now objecting to Mosque building and development with greater expertise on planning issues like parking or noise abatement and have been successful in limiting some expansion.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July Mr Ramjanally reported that he had received a threat that said "We know where your child attends school and what car you drive".

Threatening someone's child is reprehensible. No excuses for that.

The next day the front door of his flat was set alight, described in later reports as a firebomb.

The report in the local [Epping Forest Patriot](#) newsletter objecting to any 'stealth campaign to turn Murray Hall into Murray Mosque'. It wasn't couched in the most measured of language, well we are talking about the BNP here, but the history of other mosque expansion I described above is accurate.

The importance to Muslims of their sacred space, that land once held by Islam is Islamic forevermore has been explained very thoroughly by the reputable Dr Sookhdeo of the Barnabas Fund [Guardian](#) (not the local paper; the Essex Guardian group is completely separate) reported that Mr Ramjanally had been abducted.

Racist attackers abducted a Muslim community leader at knifepoint, bundled him into a car and threatened his life unless he stopped running prayer sessions in a community hall that has been the target of a British National party campaign.

Police have confirmed they are treating the incident as a hate crime and are investigating links with an earlier firebomb attack on the same man's home.

He said he fears for his life after the abduction at knifepoint, which happened at his home in Loughton, Essex, on Monday.

A BNP campaign has been blamed for rising tensions in the area. The party has been leafleting the area warning of "Islamification" which it says flows from the weekly two-hour prayer session, which it claims is a prelude to a mosque being built.

Ramjanally said he was abducted from his home in daylight by two white men who threatened him with a knife, bundled him into a car then drove him into woodland. They demanded he stop organising the Friday prayer sessions at Murray hall community centre. He said the words from his abductors matched the BNP propaganda opposing the Muslim prayers. The same demand was contained in hate mail he received last month threatening his wife and child, he said.

Councillor Pat Richardson, leader of the BNP group on the local council, said her party was not behind the attacks on Ramjanally. "Firebombing is not a British method. A brick through the window is a British method, but firebombing is not a way of showing displeasure," she said.

I have heard it said around Essex that Mrs Richardson is several sandwiches short of a picnic – that remark seems to confirm the validity of that opinion. What a barking mad and irresponsible thing to say.

Ramjanally said: "I believe the BNP campaign has inspired the violence."

He said he was snatched at around 12.15pm and feared he would be murdered during his ordeal. "I was at home and the door bell rang. I opened the door and they grabbed my wrists, pulling me out by force," he said. *He said in the Daily Mail that he thought they were council workmen come to mend his shed.*

"It was two white men. They put a knife upon my stomach, and said do what you're told or you'll get hurt." He said he was then bundled into the boot of a 4 x 4 vehicle, with one of the men holding a knife to his chest.

Ramjanally said he was driven for 10 minutes to nearby Epping Forest, walked around, and then threatened: "They said 'We don't want your Islamic group in Loughton.' I was scared, I feared for my life. I was in a forest, a knife was held against me, how would you feel? They said, 'If you don't stop, we'll come back.'"

The attackers then left Ramjanally alone in the woods.

He then told the [comments](#) on the newsreports share my feeling that his story does not quite add up. Comments have now been removed from some of the Epping Forest Guardian reports. The national Guardian has taken his claim completely at face value and has engaged their favourite commentator on matters Islamic, [Heart FM](#) - Community leader 'abducted'

This is Ramjanally being interviewed by the ['services'](#) I expected to find the times of Friday prayer. What I actually found was this.

In the name of Allah the most merciful and grateful

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“In another part of the world”? As you may well know the self defence art Krav maga was developed during the defence of the Budapest ghetto in the 1930s. The founder survived the war and taught it in Israel in 1948 to the unit that became the IDF. It is popular with Mossad, the IDF and the SAS. Sounds just the job Mr Ranjanally- where are you planning to hold the classes and who have you engaged to teach them?

UPDATE - Thursday 3 September.

As mentioned by Ms Rolt in her comment Noor Ramjanally is