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## Lockerbie doubters branded 'Holocaust deniers'

Mark Macaskill, *The Sunday Times*, December 6, 2009



A representative of families of American victims of the Lockerbie disaster has likened those questioning the guilt of the convicted Libyan bomber to "Holocaust deniers".

Frank Duggan, an official spokesman for Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, described those who believe Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi is innocent as a "shameless band of conspiracy mavens".

[According to *The Chambers Dictionary* "maven" or "mavin" is US slang, from Yiddish, for pundit or expert. View: <http://lockerbiecase.blogspot.com/2009/12/lockerbie-doubters-branded-holocaust.html> - ed AI]

Those criticised include Christine Grahame, the nationalist MSP, her researcher Mark Hirst, Robert Black, the Edinburgh-based legal expert who helped broker Megrahi's trial in the Netherlands and Gareth Peirce, the London-based human rights lawyer.

In an email sent to Richard Marquise, a former FBI official who headed the investigation, Duggan said Grahame, Hirst, Black and Peirce were **"no worse than Holocaust deniers who will not accept the facts before their faces"**.

Grahame, who believes that Iran, not Libya, was behind the 1988 bombing, which claimed 270 lives,

said Duggan's comments were ludicrous. "My father and the fathers and grandfathers of many of the other people who are seeking the truth about who attacked Pan Am 103 were fighting the perpetrators of the Holocaust for three years before the US saw fit to get involved," she said.

Hirst accused Duggan of a "highly personal" smear campaign against those who doubted the safety of Megrahi's conviction. The row reflects anger among the families of the American victims at the decision by Kenny MacAskill, the justice minister, to free Megrahi on compassionate grounds. Megrahi, who has terminal prostate cancer, has outlived his three-month prognosis. Last week, MacAskill defended his decision to a Holyrood inquiry into the handling of Megrahi's release, insisting that the medical advice was "quite clear".

US intelligence files published last week claim Megrahi was involved in buying and developing chemical weapons for Libya. Black declined to comment and Peirce was unavailable for comment.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6945882.ece?>

## **Last chance for Holocaust justice?** **The trial of an aging former Nazi guard is delayed due to failing health.** **Is it time to call off the hunt?**



By [Lynda Hurst](#)

Is this the last Nazi war crimes trial?

As the clock ticks down on the life span of suspects, that may be an obvious question. But the answer is anything but.

The trial of 89-year-old John Demjanjuk – charged with participating in the murder of 27,900 Jews in 1943 – was halted three days after it started last week in Munich.

The Ukraine-born former Ohio autoworker is accused of being a guard at Sobibor, a Nazi death camp in Poland where most victims perished within an hour of arriving by train, pushed by guards into carbon monoxide-filled gas chambers.

Demjanjuk arrived in court variously by wheelchair, stretcher and hospital bed and by Wednesday, had developed an infection. The case was adjourned, tentatively until Dec. 21.

His family says he's terminally ill. Court doctors say he is frail, has a bone marrow disease and heart murmur, but is fit to stand trial. Appalled Jewish observers say he's faking or exaggerating his weakness to portray himself as a victim.

"Listen, seeing him there in court, he belonged to Hollywood, not Sobibor, so great was the act he put on," said Efraim Zuroff, head of the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the world's leading Nazi hunter.

Demjanjuk is the lowest-ranked person ever to be tried for war crimes. The case, both for and against him, is complex and ultimately may hinge on the statement of a dead man.

Drafted by the Soviet Red Army in 1941 and taken prisoner by the Nazis in 1942, Demjanjuk has admitted being an SS guard from 1944 on – but at other camps, not Sobibor. And there are no living witnesses to place him there.

There *were* the last time he was tried, when he was accused by Israel of being Ivan the Terrible, a notoriously sadistic guard who operated the gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp.

At the widely covered trial in 1988, five survivors identified him as Ivan. Convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity, he was sentenced to death by hanging. But Israel's Supreme Court overturned the conviction in 1993, after evidence emerged casting doubt that Demjanjuk was the brutal Ivan.

After that shocking twist, the distinguished Holocaust documenter Gitta Sereny wrote that Nazi war-crimes cases should cease and the survivors "be allowed to rest." As for the suspects:

"Every man who was guilty of foul deeds in that war, and in wars since, must be in no doubt, until the day he dies, that the whole world knows, and deplores, what was done."

The plea came too soon. When Demjanjuk returned home, U.S. government investigators immediately began working on a second set of charges involving Sobibor, which resulted in his extradition to a German prison, in May of this year.

Remaining ex-Nazis will be as aged and possibly as infirm (to whatever degree) as Demjanjuk. Witnesses to their actions have died. Is it time now, as others besides Sereny argue, to call off the hunt for individuals? Or, while there's breath still in their bodies, should the chase continue?

There is no choice, says Avi Benlolo, president of the Toronto Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. "We must pursue these

people no matter how elderly or frail. Our job is to bring them to justice."

German prosecutors say Demjanjuk volunteered to be a guard and simply holding that job in a death camp meant he took part in the gassing.

Though Demjanjuk denies the authenticity of a key piece of evidence – a photo ID identifying him as a Sobibor guard – U.S. and German experts say it is genuine.

Other potentially damning evidence may come from statements made by a now-dead Ukrainian, Ignat Danilchenko, who also was captured by the Red Army, then a prisoner of the Nazis. In 1949, he told a Soviet war crimes trial he'd been with Demjanjuk at Sobibor in 1943 and "like all guards in the camp, Demjanjuk participated in the mass killing of Jews." U.S. investigators, however, have said his statements contain numerous factual errors.

Demjanjuk's defence argues he was a small cog in the Nazi death machine and that other, more senior workers have escaped retribution. On the first day in court, they said they'll rely on a 1976 West German trial in which the commandant of a guard-training camp was acquitted.

Lawyer Ulrich Busch filed a motion saying the case should never have been brought to trial, given this precedent. "How can you say that the order-givers were innocent ... and the one who received the orders is guilty?" he asked. "There is a moral and legal double standard being applied today."

The implication? Demjanjuk's prosecution is more akin to persecution, doubly so because of his age and physical state.

As time runs out, those factors will increasingly take centre stage in any reckoning to come.

This fall, a Spanish judge indicted three former death camp guards – one in Austria, two in the U.S. – with crimes against humanity. The Americans are "both mentally and physically incompetent," says their lawyer.

"It's up to the courts to decide on competence," counters Benlolo.

"For us, it's the process that's important, the precedent it sets for other war criminals, in Bosnia and Rwanda, and in the future. They should have a fear of being hunted down no matter how long it takes."

No, Demjanjuk's won't be the last trial, he says. "But there aren't many left."

This fall, three other men on the Wiesenthal Centre's 10 most-wanted list have been brought into the legal system:

Heinrich Boere, 88, leader of a Dutch SS death squad, is on trial in Aachen, Germany;

Charles Zentai, 88, an ex-Hungarian soldier accused of beating an 18-year-old Jew to death, is fighting extradition to Germany from Australia;

Sandor Kepiro, a 95-year-old Hungarian accused of taking part in the 1942 Novi Sad massacre of 1,300 Jews, Serbs and Roma, was questioned in September by Budapest prosecutors.

Since 2001, there have been 82 successful prosecutions of war criminals, Nazi-hunter Zuroff said last month, but 702 cases are

still on file and will be pursued: "I expect to continue my work for another three or four years, by which time the last of the war criminals will be gone."

The Wiesenthal Centre is still running its Operation Last Chance, begun in 2002, offering up to \$26,000 for information leading to suspects still in hiding.

Germany is just as eager to continue. Last week, chief war crimes prosecutor Kurt Schrimm said his team had stumbled on archives identifying several hundred Germans who went to Brazil in the 1950s and may be linked to the Holocaust. Schrimm plans to follow up on the lead in the spring.

"As long as there's a possibility that these people are alive," he said, "we'll continue our work."

When the Demjanjuk trial resumes, five relatives of some of the 250,000 Jews who died at Sobibor are to make statements. Camp survivor Thomas Blatt, who doesn't remember Demjanjuk being there, will testify about his experience.

But what Blatt really wants is for Demjanjuk to speak: "There is no price he could pay that would come close to his guilt. The

victims are dying out, the murderers are dying out. In 10 years it will all only be history. I just want to hear the truth"

The only time Demjanjuk spoke in court last week was to mumble a prayer in Ukrainian. He never opened his eyes once.



John Demjanjuk is led out of the courtroom on a stretcher at the end of the first day of his trial at Munich's regional court on November 30, 2009. JOHN MACDOUGALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# THE DAILY EVERGREEN

## An inconvenient hoax Revelation of scientists' e-mails dooms climate change legislation

[Taylor Kolasinski](#)

*The Daily Evergreen, December 03 2009 7:20pm*

Al Gore got us good. For years, Gore has been promoting one of the greatest hoaxes in human history: Man is the cause of climate change.

The scientific consensus that mankind has caused climate change was shaken at its core last week after Russian hackers illegally obtained 10 years of e-mails between the world's top climate change scientists. The exposure of the content within the e-mails has leading academics referring to global warming as a "load of hot air underpinned by fraud."

There are various concerns drawn from this revelation that have climate change skeptics referring to this scandal as "Climategate," a rightful name for a disgraceful event. The e-mails obtained appeared to indicate an assortment of unlawful behavior and a distortion of scientific principles.

Two main concerns are drawn from these e-mails. The first is the credibility of the research conducted. The scientists conducting this research were considered to be the world leaders on the topic of climate change. However, according to the e-mails, data was fabricated, manipulated or deleted altogether.

The second is the integrity and effectiveness of the peer review process. Normally when done correctly, it is an efficient way for researchers to receive valuable feedback on their findings as well as to inform the author if it is significant enough for publication. However, when other top scientists displayed discontent for the man-made assumption, these contrarians were dismissed, and their future in the scientific community was questioned.

Furthermore, the Global Warming Petition Project consists of more than 31,000 U.S. scientists who denounce human-caused climate change. These scientists base their conclusion on creditable research that offers an equally viable explanation for climate change.

What is most frightening about this is that this information has been regarded as significant to Democrats in America. While Republicans have been skeptical as to mankind being responsible for climate change, Democrats have long considered

there to be sufficient evidence, even going as far as to attempt to pass a cap-and-trade bill. If passed, the bill will essentially raise taxes and penalize Americans who are not living green enough by government standards.

Leave it to the Democrats to institute a tax to change the weather.

Besides the raising of taxes, the cap-and-trade bill will increase the role of the federal government in our lives. There are restrictions within the bill that will require Americans to change the way they live and adhere to standards set by the government. On top of that, there will be government inspectors who will go around and rate each home on its energy efficiency. If the house does not meet the standards established by the government, the government will not allow the house to be put up for sale until the home meets the requirements.

It is not the role of the government to tell Americans how to live their lives. It should be the individual's responsibility to look after the environment.

With the global environmental summit in Copenhagen on the horizon, many countries have been attempting to pass their versions of the cap-and-trade bill. However, with the leak of these e-mails, that has become increasingly difficult. For example, a cap-and-trade bill in Australia's was recently defeated by their parliament.

There is no doubt that climate change is occurring, but the exposure of these e-mails will make it far more difficult for Democrats to use climate change as an excuse to increase taxes and expand the size of the federal government.

Regardless of climate change causes, common sense tells us that we should continue to go green and look out for our environment. However, rather than having the government dictate how we live our lives, the change should come from an individual's own concerns for the environment.

**The burden of climate change can now be lifted from our shoulders.**

<http://www.dailyevergreen.com/story/30342>

ARE YOU COMING TO BED?

I CAN'T. THIS  
IS IMPORTANT.

WHAT?

SOMEONE IS WRONG  
ON THE INTERNET.

