

## E O S

**Terrorism experts have been so focused on the Islamist threat that other types of terrorism have fallen off the radar screen.**



HO / REUTERS

Anders Behring Breivik in a uniform of his own design.

Ronald Crelinsten Published on Mon Jul 25 2011

**The massive bombing in Oslo's government district and the horrific shooting at the youth camp on Utoya Island that followed has shocked the Norwegian nation and the world. As the attacks unfolded, the global twitterati began immediately speculating about who could be responsible.**

**Given the multiple attacks and its scale, many understandably thought of Al Qaeda or some other Islamist group. Several reasons were proffered:**

- **Norwegian papers had published the infamous Danish cartoons of the prophet Muhammed**
- **A Norwegian court had recently ordered the deportation of a Muslim cleric who founded the Iraqi Kurdish Islamist group, Ansar al-Islam**
- **Norway had sent troops to Iraq and to Afghanistan and had participated in the campaign in Libya**
- **A previously unknown group, Helpers of the Global Jihad, claimed responsibility, as did Ansar al-Islam**
- **An Islamist extremist had launched an ultimately failed double bombing in Stockholm in December 2010 and one analyst pointed out that Al Qaeda was focused on Scandinavia**

**Furthermore, the Norwegian police initially stated that the attack**

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Norwegian, some experts continued to argue that it could still be an Islamist attack. Again, this was not implausible given that more and more converts to Islam are becoming involved in such attacks. The British tabloid the **Sun**, on its Saturday morning front page, even ran the headline: "Norway's 9/11" with a smaller title above it, in red: "'Al-Qaeda' Massacre."

While the police did not

