

Dear Editor:

Author and journalist Sally Neighbour explains the theme of her acclaimed book, *The Mother of Mohammed*. "I felt that by understanding their journeys we could perhaps understand the extraordinary appeal and resilience of the global Islamist movement – the most important political and social movement of the last 20 years, and one that has re-shaped our world."

In the book, Neighbour tells the extraordinary story of how a dope-smoking beach bunny, Robyn Hutchinson, became Rabiah – a member of the jihadist elite. Rabiah lived for twenty years on the frontlines of the global holy war. To Western intelligence analysts she is, 'the matriarch of radical Islam.'

Rabiah converted to Islam in Bali, married into the Javanese royal family and had two children. Later she left her husband, a drug addict, married again and had more children, before coming into contact with Abu Bakar Bashir, the imam who envisioned an Islamic caliphate across an arc of South-East Asia and whose name has been linked to several terrorist attacks. Hutchinson spent four years working as a doctor in a mujahideen hospital and orphanage on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the early 1990s. From Pakistan she moved to Afghanistan, where she became known as Umm Mohammed ("mother of Mohammed," the name of one of her sons).

With a reputation for tough investigative journalism, the author explores how Rabiah became a trusted insider to the Jemaah Islamiyah, Taliban and al Qaeda leaderships, and married a leading figure in Osama bin Laden's inner sanctum. Incidentally, Osama bin Laden gave her an air conditioner and may even have proposed marriage.

In *The Mother of Mohammed*, Sally Neighbour discovers a world of converts and true believers. This unique and confronting account from inside the jihad helps us to understand the magnetism of the Islamist cause.

Sally Neighbour is a reporter with a premier investigative public affairs program, ABC TV's Four Corners, in Australia. She is also a writer for leading international newspapers and a winner of awards for excellence in journalism. Her previous book was *In the Shadow of Swords: On the Trail of Terrorism from Afghanistan to Australia*.

I do hope you will review this book in your publication. Do feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Best Regards,

Akash Shah
Publisher

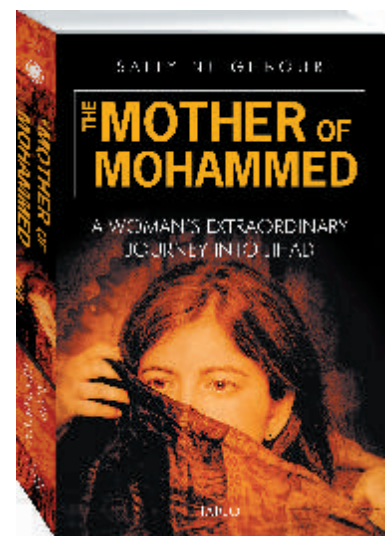
The Mother of Mohammed

A Woman's Extraordinary Journey into Jihad

Sally Neighbour

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