

Episode in the War Against Error

[Stockwell tube station, London, 21 July 2005]

by Alexis Lykiard

Hired guns hunted down one ... Brazilian,
young naïf coldly rendered to death.
They collared the sinister Alien,
who gave up, underground, his last breath.
It seems he was seated – no hurry at first.
Did the marksmen yell boldly, as they'd rehearsed,
and pin flat the accused or rather, Accursed?
The name of this fair game is Kill-not-cure,
codenames and no packdrill, its aim unsure:
targets exist to be hit with each burst.
While passengers freeze, turn sideways in dread,
seven bullets point-blank blow open his head.

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Note: An eighth bullet hit 27-year-old Jean Charles de Menezes in the shoulder. Three more shots missed. The Daily Telegraph later announced on its front page (16/11/05) that hollow-point – or dum-dum-ammunition, 'banned in warfare under international convention' – was used.