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.