



Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Section - 2014

I6 True Faces of Terrorists

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After attending this presentation, attendees will: (1) gain understanding of terrorism against the world, its allied governments, and global interests and the “3 I’s” that distinguish terrorism from crime and other criminal actions; (2) gain an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the Middle East (psychological and sociological explanations of terrorism); (3) develop basic knowledge of clinical and social psychology as frameworks for analyzing terrorism and terrorists; (4) be able to analyze the causes of terrorism, the motivations of terrorists, and known international terrorist networks; (5) develop an understanding of and sensitivity to the social-political conditions that spawn terrorist organizations; (6) be able to explore the psychological processes that create a terrorist; (7) be able to examine the psychological impact of terrorist activities in prison; (8) be able to appreciate the need for further understanding of terrorist events; (9) develop unbiased and analytical thinking capabilities of terrorist’s psychology; (10) gain an increased awareness of cultural and multi-cultural issues through study of how social problems and social movements are related to, and affect, minority groups; and, (11) learn the four types of terrorists in terms of definition, assessment, and categorizing.

From direct interviews, this is a study of terrorist personalities and their involvement within the terrorist cell, including types, tactics, and trends on a worldwide scale as well as domestically. This presentation on terrorist psychology using a clinical and social psychology will impact the forensic science community by providing a framework for studying terrorist individuals and groups, terrorist origins, goals, dynamics, and ideologies. Work for this presentation involves examination of the structure and dynamics of terrorists in the Middle East (not to say that terrorism is only in that region of the globe).

Terrorist influences via the use of the media, religion, and politics will be presented. Participants will view different definitions and typologies of terrorism, from the eyes of those who are called terrorists, clandestine freedom fighters, perpetrators, extremists, and other titles.

The audience will view case studies of various terrorist individuals and groups to demonstrate abilities and capabilities to research a terrorist problem, profile, or scenario in-depth, and argue for suggested counterterrorism policy or negotiations strategy.

Questions to be addressed will include:

- What groups are active in this generation, and have they achieved their goals?
- What are some of the important cultural differences that should be considered by terrorists when attacking countries or “representatives” of such nations?
- Can there be some important cultural differences which should be considered when seeking to understand counter-terrorist strategies?
- How do political and religious beliefs sometimes aid terrorists?
- Is the use of terrorist tactics ever justified?

There have been too many years of terror with differing views of the terrorists, with each sector of the globe interpreting the behavior similarly. However, there may be lessons learned in the analysis of conflict when people impose their own culturally-conditioned cognitions and emotions.

Today’s “bad people” are on the internet reading behavioral analysis texts to learn how experts are trying to catch them. As a result, they set their standards at a different level to bypass the game plan of the “good guys.”

Categories or classifications are psychopathic, ethno-geographic religious, ethno-geographic political, and retributive terrorists. In the first, one works for the money and the power. The second and third have a shared purpose: to bring significant change to the world and to be rewarded. The fourth has with no pre-morbid characteristics of psychological disorders or disease, but has been directly associated with harm (loss of family, friends, and/or community and seeking revenge).

The ethno-geographic terrorists function with the “3 I’s”:

- Impress with their ideas or power on persons;
- Impose their beliefs and conditions on community; and
- Implement their system as control on the world.



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When interviewing these characters face-to-face, the professional examiner recognizes the individual level of intellectual functioning, emotional stability, cognitive commitment, and behavioral obedience. This program goes beyond the Rome Memorandum.

This presentation will reveal the true words and conditions of people legally labeled as terrorists: why they joined clandestine groups, their commitment to the leader or to a cause (or both), and what might make them change directions toward non-violent extremist positions.

References:

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 2. Hamden, RH *The Retributional Terrorist – Type 4*. In Chris Stout, editor, **The Psychology of Terrorism**. Connecticut: Preager Press, Greenwood Publishers, 2002: Vol 2 Chapter 8.
 3. Yamout, N., Yamout, M. *The Role of Forensic Social Work in Terrorism* [unpublished thesis]. Partial requirement for the Masters in Social Work degree, Modern University for Business and Sciences, 2014 February.
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Terrorist Psychology, Terrorist Cognition, Terrorist Behavior