

When is a terrorist... NOT a "terrorist"?



Yemen, October 12, 2000

An attack on the American warship, *USS Cole*, which kills 17 sailors, is called the work of a "terrorist" group by virtually every major media outlet.



Morocco, May 17, 2003

Multiple bombings kill 28 civilians and are reported as perpetrated by "terrorists."



Saudi Arabia, May 13, 2003

An attack kills 25 people; this too is termed the work of "terrorists."

When the Victims are Israelis

Terrorists are those who target and kill non-combatants (including, as on the *USS Cole*, military people not engaged in hostilities) for the purpose of spreading fear and terror. No definition more accurately describes the aims and actions of Palestinian groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Al Qaqa Martyrs Brigades that have murdered or maimed thousands of innocents since September 2000.

Yet many news organizations justify not using the word "terrorist" to characterize the perpetrators of mass killings of Israeli civilians. (On occasion they may paraphrase Israeli officials using the term – yet rarely use it directly themselves.)

Many substitute "activists," "militants," "bombers" or "factions" for "terrorists." At the same time, other groups, including those associated with Al Qaeda, the killers of thousands of Americans on 9/11, are unambiguously – and correctly – termed "terrorists."

Some media outlets will call attacks on Israelis "acts of terror," but refuse to label the perpetrators "terrorists." They seek to shield the criminal from the crime. This is neither objective or neutral; those who commit acts of terror are terrorists – even when their victims are Israelis.

Many journalists claim they should not "judge" or "take sides" by using the negative label "terrorist." But refusing to attach the term to groups that target and kill Israeli men, women and children is also taking sides. The terrorists' side.



Jerusalem, August 19, 2003

Hamas bombs a double bus, killing 23 Israeli civilians, including children, and is termed a "militant" group by virtually every major media outlet.

It's time for ONE media standard
in reporting on terrorist groups.



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