

כיסוי תקשורת של אירועי טרור: אירועים שנויים במחלוקת והצעה להנחיות

רפי כהן-אלמגור

ראש המרכז לחקר הדמוקרטיה

אוניברסיטת חיפה

media



terrorists

governme

promoter?

We took great interest in the press. We always immediately looked how the newspapers, especially in Berlin, reacted to our actions, and how they explained them, and thereupon we defined our strategy.”

~ Bommi Bauman

הגדרת טרור

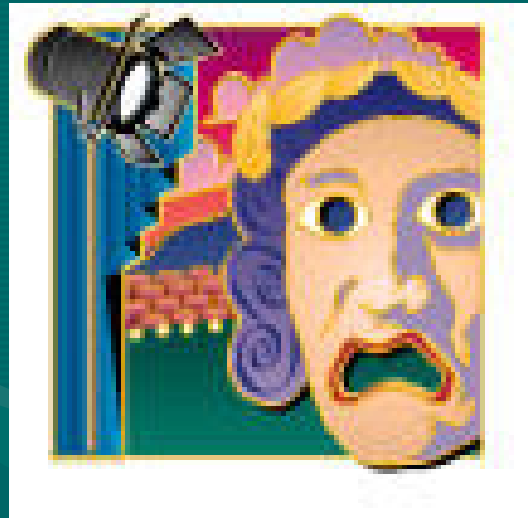
- **The threat or employment of violence against random citizens for political, religious, or ideological purposes by individuals or groups who are willing to justify all means to achieve their goals.**



Media is a theatre, or is it?



Terrorism concerns real people, with concrete fears, who wish to go on with their lives without being coerced into becoming victims.



Significant cases



- Patty Hearst's kidnapping**
- Jurgen Schumann's murder**
- Mogadishu**
- "The Mahealdin Al-Naser
Martyr Group"**

Significant cases

Contd.

Unabomber Manifesto

Hijacking of TWA 847

Hanafi Muslim takeover

IRA - Carrickmore



Endangering Life

- Careless reporting and behaviour might result in death of victims and bystanders

Endangering Life-Hearst



- Patty Hearst's Kidnapping (February 4, 1974)
- Marilyn Baker's obsession with the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Endangering Life- Schumann

- Jurgen Schumann's murder on October 16, 1977
- The media broadcast the information he had transmitted via the plane's radio.

Endangering Life: Gordus v. Yavin



- October 18, 1977 a Lufthansa aeroplane was hijacked to Mogadishu
- German anti-terror unit is about to storm the plane
- Michael Gordus v. Haim Yavin

Endangering Life: Iranian Embassy, London

- Take over of the Embassy on April 30, 1980
- six terrorists, members of Arabistan anti-Khomeini movement "The Mahealdin Al-Naser Martyr Group" held 26 people as hostages, demanding the release of 91 ethnic

Endangering Life: Iranian Embassy, London

- "See what happens when I release hostages"

Endangering Life: Hanafi takeover

- During the Muslim takeover of three buildings (B'nai Brith national quarters, the city Islamic Center, and the District Building) at the heart of Washington D.C. on March 10, 1977, Robert A. Dobkin of *The Associated Press* asked Khaalis if he had set a deadline, when none had been stated earlier.

Unabomber

- Between May 1978 and April 1995
Killed 3, injured 23
- June '95 - demanded NYT and WP to publish his manifesto
- Janet Reno, others asked the papers to



Arguments for Publication

- Unabomber had credible record of violence - 'clear and present danger'
- public safety reasons: Unabomber promised to refrain from any further bombings
- Could lead to capture

Arguments Against Publication

- “I don’t know what they have gained by printing the manifesto, but I do know what they lost: They lost principle.”
- Establishes a precedent

David Koehn

After eighteen years of investigations, the most sought man by the FBI was captured



Bryan & SLA

John Bryan, publisher of a small newspaper called *The Phoenix*, printed a long, rambling letter he claimed was written by the SLA as an answer to his request to contact him. This was a hoax.





TWA 847

The hijacking of the plane to Beirut on June 14-30, 1985. The United States turned to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the first 24 hours after the hijacking to arrange a swap for the passengers and the prisoners.

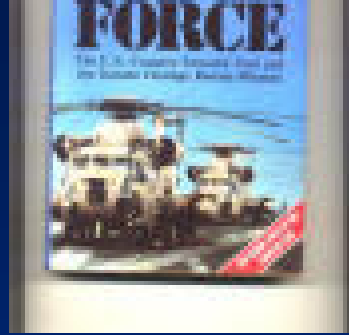
TWA 847



because of published and broadcast reports that the U.S. army had dispatched its Delta force antiterrorist squad to the Middle East, the terrorists fled Algeria and soon landed in Beirut, where it was far more difficult for the Americans to carry out a rescue operation

1985):

The U.S. has reportedly sent a commando unit to the Mediterranean ready to storm the hijacked plane if necessary... The unit is said to be part of a crack anti-terrorist squad of several hundred men... The commandos, known as the Delta Unit, may have been sent to the aircraft carrier Enterprise which is currently in the western Mediterranean.”



Los Angeles Times
Sunday, December 16, 1979

Similar reckless reports were made by the
NY Times and the *Los Angeles Times*

The New York Times
nytimes.com