

Psychology of Terrorists: *4 types*

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Terror and Terrorists

Terror is violence or threat of violence perpetrated by private individuals or small groups from the hegemonic strata against members of negative reference groups and that enjoys the tacit approval if not active participation of members of the security forces.

A terrorist is an individual who carries out or threatens to carry out acts of terror, for hire or not for hire. The act of harming or killing others, who are direct enemies or innocent victims, may be for monetary gain, gain of group principle, gain of personal principle, or any combination.

The literature on the specific types of terrorists featured in this presentation is sparse. Much of the information herewithin is based on this author's research and consultations while a Visiting Fellow (1986) at the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland – College Park; and since. Clinical and forensic interventions were managed through the Human Relations Institute And Clinics, a Washington, D.C. psychology practice. Since 1990, international practice was co-based in the United Arab Emirates for general psychology practice in clinical, educational, and organizational along with forensic and political psychology consulting.

Concepts and Perceptions of Terrorists

Commonly, terrorists are seen as psychopathic or having a religious or political cause. Yet, if we look at the individual players, we may see personal motives versus motives of principle. A common assumption is that terrorists use force or threat of force instrumentally in a conscious and premeditated fashion because they misguidedly think that it will enhance their probability of achieving a certain political or religious goal or set of goals.

Psychologists may tend to see political or religious goals as an arena in which emotions originating elsewhere are stimulated and played out. So, the psychologist may ask - What nonpolitical frustrations or drives are at the base of the behavior? Berkowitz (1969) points out two basic variations on this theme. First is the situation in which an individual is suffering from the effects of very unpleasant present or past conditions (e.g. painful events or frustrations). This will give rise to a "fairly specific internal inclination to be aggressive," which can be triggered by some political situation or event.

Berkowitz's second variation (1975) is that a person may merely be excited or aroused. This general, initially nonaggressive arousal can - under appropriate conditions - be channeled into political violence. The classic example is that of a large group of people that suddenly turns into an angry, violent mob.

Jeanne Knutson's research (1981) resulted in her belief that victimization is the motive force behind much political violence in the contemporary world. Victimization is a personally experienced injustice which the victim knows to be unnecessary and which creates a basic fear of annihilation. Discrete victimization events that have the strength to change the victim's perception of the world can cause the victim to act in defense of him or herself and his or her group in order to reduce the chances for further aggression against the self, family, community, or all three.

Political psychologists are inclined to look at instances of the use of force or the threat of force in terms of both of these perspectives instrumental and expressive. Each act is usually based on some mixture of instrumental motivation and underlying psychological dynamics. Therefore, try to ascertain the particular mixture of the underlining acts of political violence.

The use of force or the threat to use force usually implies the use of some form of violence. The question of the origins and triggers of human violence has intrigued students of human behavior at least since the earliest days of written history. During the twentieth century, scholars have advanced a wide variety of theories of human aggressiveness. These can be roughly divided into three categories: (1) biological theories (psychophysiological, sociobiological, and ethological); (2) there are the psychological and social-psychological theories (from Freudian theories to theories of situational conformity), and (3) the discipline of political psychology (generating many theories to better understand terrorism and international violence).

Knutson and Etheredge have emerged in direct response to events in the political world of psychological understanding. Dollard (1939) and others have formed the basis for more politically oriented work. Ted Robert Gurr (1970) has developed a theory of revolutionary behavior based on frustration-aggression theory.

Freud, as well as Dollard and his associates, and Etheredge (1979), focuses on what happens inside the individual. Situational conformity theory concentrates on what is happening in the microenvironment. Social learning theory, as well as Knutson's victimization theory, concentrates on the impact of both the microenvironment and the macroenvironment on individual behavior. Ethnocentrism focuses on the dynamics of the microenvironmental interactions within groups, as well as the macroenvironmental issues involved in the relationships between groups, which may consist of entire cultural or national collectivities.

All, to some extent, stress the importance of the personality-situation interaction. They can also be seen as making a potential contribution to analyze specific events involving the use or threat of force. See the whole issue of human aggressive behavior as involving a much more complex dynamic – microenvironment, macroenvironment, along with the individual dynamics.

However, this chapter will only address the individual dynamics. The "hired-guns" are the individuals who seek satisfaction in the pathologically narcissistic need to control – the Psychopathic Terrorist. The "group-cause" terrorists can manifest through two systems: religious, political, or both – the Ethnogeographic Terrorist. The person who had no history of pathology and was not inclined to membership in any particular group,

yet suffered a deliberately planned major atrocity against self, family, community, or all, is – *The Retributional Terrorist*.

The terrorist incidents (see on-line CHS/ACFEI Timeline of Terrorism) were not qualified by terrorist types. Direct or indirect information on each person involved in these events would highlight the type of motivation and may enhance the negotiation process.

The psychology of the terrorist or terrorism-at-large is best understood when the holistic model is implemented. Although terrorism, torture, or any form of violence is inexcusable, there are explanations for acts of atrocity that need to be considered to foster an end to such unforgettable events.

Clinical and Forensic Psychology Investigation

To learn and understand the terrorist, we shall examine the personality profile of the individual – diagnosis, psychological defense mechanisms, and how this can benefit the negotiations process.

The clinical information is critical in the negotiations process. Thinking as the perpetrator can be essential in developing a resolution to the conflict at hand. It is important to know the defense mechanisms highlighted with such individuals.

Psychological *Defense Mechanisms* are patterns of feelings, thoughts, or behaviors that are relatively involuntary and arise in response to perceptions of psychic danger. They are designed to hide or to alleviate the conflicts or stressors that give rise to anxiety (Vaillant, 1992).

Defense Mechanisms can be divided into categories by different theorists– Narcissistic, Immature, Neurotic, and Mature (Meissner’s Glossary of Defenses, 1980); “Psychotic”, “Immature”, “Neurotic”, “Mature” (Vaillant’s Glossary of Defenses, 1992); and, Action, Major Image Distortion, Disavowal, Narcissistic or Minor Image Distortion, Other Neurotic, Obsessional, High Adaptive-Level, (Perry’s Defense Mechanism Rating Scale, 1987).

The protocol of clinical and forensic intervention that leads to diagnosis and identifying defense mechanisms is the *psychology interview* and *mental status examination*.

PSYCHOLOGY INTERVIEW
and
MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION

Psychological History

IDENTIFICATION: This is basically done by the examining professional who requires the name, address of origin, affiliations. This was usually provided by the referring government agency or legal practice seeking expert representation for a client.

CHIEF COMPLAINT: This is where the professional inquires about what is troubling the Terrorist and the reason they need professional intervention.

HISTORY OF PRESENT CONCERN: This concerns the chronological background of the development of the person's behavior, cognition, emotions, and environment. The professional however should listen carefully to the symptoms and circumstances that led to the onset of such and to ascertain any premorbid personality characteristic or traits.

FAMILY HISTORY: This is a very important source of information, to find out the environment the person grew up in as well as to elicit any evidence of psychological disorders.

PAST PERSONAL HISTORY: This examines the individual's life from infancy to the present. It is divided into three stages (1) early middle and late childhood, (2) adolescence, and (3) adulthood.

SEXUAL HISTORY: This is to determine whether the person has had any sexual disorders, or sexual misconduct, at any period or in different periods of life.

MEDICAL HISTORY: This examines if the individual has suffered or is suffering from any of illness, disability, or disorder.

SOCIAL HISTORY: Here one records any reported or investigated evidence of military duty, legal problems involving imprisonment or arrests, membership in organizations.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY: This examines the knowledge of all psychological conditions and this knowledge gives ability to sift material and know what data are missing and still need to be obtained.

Mental Status Examination

This focuses on the individual's condition while being examined.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is done by observing the person's appearance which gives a general idea about attitude and over all behavior; except if the person is jailed, then inmate attire would be expected.

SPEECH AND STREAM OF TALK: It enables the examiner to whether the tone of the individual is normal, rapid, or slow.

EMOTIONAL REACTION AND MOOD: This is to determine person's reaction on different aspects.

PERCEPTION: This is to examine the person's ability to perceive himself or herself, the world, and the appropriate relations between the two.

THOUGHT CONTENT: This examines the rate of verbalized thoughts to assess whether there is a paucity of ideas or seeming abundance. *Abstract thinking* is included to examine the ability to deal with different concepts.

COGNITION: This examines the area of sensorium - capabilities, including consciousness, orientation, memory and intellectual tasks. *Consciousness* is evaluated by the one's ability of concentration. *Orientation* is usually assessed with respect to time, place, and person. *Memory* is evaluated from the point of view of recent memory and remote memory. *Intellectual tasks* are to examine the general fund knowledge and intellectual functioning, reading and writing, judgment, and insight.

Furthermore, the professional must make a statement about *reliability* - that is the tendency to minimize or exaggerate symptoms and also about the capacity to report situations truthfully by the interviewee.

Diagnosis

Diagnostic And Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition, text revision (DSM-IV-TR) uses a multiaxial classification scheme consisting of five axes, each of which covered in the diagnosis. Axis-1 includes all the disorders and conditions listed in DSM-IV-TR except the personality disorders and specific developmental disorders which are listed in Axis-2. Axis-3 includes physical disorders and conditions. Axis-4 relates to severity of psychological stressors and Axis-5 rates the level of adaptive functioning during the past year.

The Psychopathic Terrorist

In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition, text revised (APA, 2000), the diagnosis of Antisocial Personality Disorder highlights the following.

The essential feature of Antisocial Personality Disorder is a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood. This pattern has also been referred to as **psychopathy**, sociopathy or dissocial personality disorder. Because deceit and manipulation are central features of Antisocial Personality Disorder, it may be especially helpful to integrate information acquired from systematic clinical assessment with information collected from collateral sources.

The pattern of antisocial behavior continues into adulthood. Individuals with Antisocial Personality Disorder fail to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behavior. They may repeatedly perform acts that are grounds for arrest (whether they are arrested or not), such as destroying property, harassing others, stealing, or pursuing illegal occupations. Persons with this disorder disregard the wishes, rights, or feelings of others. They are frequently deceitful and manipulative in order to gain personal profit or pleasure. A pattern of impulsivity may be manifested by failure to plan ahead.

Individuals with Antisocial Personality Disorder also tend to be consistently and extremely irresponsible...They may be indifferent to, or provide a superficial rationalization for, having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from someone. These individuals

may blame the victims for being foolish, helpless, or deserving their fate; they may minimize the harmful consequences of their actions; or they may simply indicate complete indifference. They generally fail to compensate or make amends for their behavior.

Child abuse or neglect, unstable or erratic parenting, or inconsistent parental discipline may increase the likelihood that Conduct Disorder will evolve into Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Case Example

This young man 21 years of age does not look at all like a criminal type or shifty delinquent. Tom looks and is in robust physical health. His manner and appearance are pleasing...His immediate problem was serious but not monumental. His family and legal authorities were in hope that if some psychiatric disorder could be discovered in him, He might escape a jail sentence for stealing...

Evidence of his maladjustment became distinct in childhood. He appeared to be a reliable and manly fellow but could never be counted upon to keep at any task or to give a straight account of any situation. He was frequently truant n school ... Though he was generously provided for, He stole some of his father's chickens from time to time, selling them at stores downtown. Pieces of table silver would be missed. These were sometimes recovered from those to whom he had sold them for a pittance or swapped them for odds and ends which seemed to hold no particular interest or value for him.

He lied so plausibly and with such equanimity, devised such ingenious alibis or simply denied all responsibility with such convincing appearances of candor that for many years his real career was poorly estimated...

Though he often fell in with groups or small gangs, he never for long identified himself with others in common cause. Reliable information indicates that he has been arrested and imprisoned approximately fifty or sixty times. It is estimated that he would have been put in jail or police barracks for short or long periods of detention on approximately 150 other occasions if his family had not made good his small thefts and damages and paid fines for him...

Defense Mechanisms of Psychopathic Personalities

Denial: Psychotic denial of external reality. Unlike repression, it affects the perception of external reality. Seeing but refusing to acknowledge what one sees and hearing but negating what is actually heard are examples of denial and exemplify the close relationship of denial to sensory experience. However, not all denial is necessarily psychotic. Like projection, denial may function in the service of neurotic or even adaptive objectives.

Distortion: Grossly reshaping external reality to suit inner needs including unrealistic megalomania beliefs, hallucinations, wish-fulfilling delusions, and using sustained feelings of delusional superiority or entitlement.

Projection (Narcissistic): Frank delusions about external reality, usually persecutory, it includes both perceptions of one's own feelings in another and subsequent acting on the perception (paranoid disorder).

Acting out: Direct expressions of an unconscious wish or impulse to avoid being aware of the accompanying affect. The unconscious fantasy, involving objects, is lived out impulsively in behavior, thus gratifying the impulse more than the prohibition against it.

On a chronic level, acting out involves giving in to impulses to avoid the tension that would result from postponement of expression.

Rationalization: A mechanism in which the person devises reassuring or self-serving, but in-correct, explanations for his or her own or others' behavior.

Negotiations with Psychopathic Types

These individuals are narcissistic and unconcerned with the welfare of others. They are interested in their own personal benefits only. They can be hired to do "the job" with little or no interest in the cause; and they can kill with no remorse. To kill a hostage is of little concern, unless it directly affects him or her, the psychopathic terrorist.

The Ethnogeographic Terrorist: religious or political

These two types run the same or very similar dynamics but for different causes. In explaining others' actions, professionals frequently commit the fundamental attribution error. We attribute their behaviors so much to the inner dispositions that we discount important situation forces. The error occurs partly because our attention focuses on the persons, not on the situation. A person's race or gender is vivid and attention-getting; the situational forces working upon that person are usually less visible.

Fundamentalism is defined as a strict maintenance of traditional orthodox religious beliefs; a religious movement which developed among various bodies ... based on strict adherence to certain tenets. (Oxford Reference Dictionary 1986)

This definition can be applied to political as well as religious fundamentalism. To understand the fundamental mind-set, let us look at ourselves in terms of attribution theories. Thomas Pettigrew (1979) argues that attribution errors can bias people's explanations of group members' behaviors.

We grant members of our own group members' behaviors. We grant members our own group benefit of the doubt: "She donated because she has a good heart; he refused because he had to under the circumstances." When explaining acts by members of other groups, we more often assume the worst: "He donated to gain favor; she refused because she's selfish."

Defense Mechanisms of Fundamentalist Types

Introjection: With a loved object, introjection involves the internalization of characteristics of the object with the goal of establishing closeness to and constant presence of the object. Anxiety consequent to separation or tension arising out of ambivalence toward the object is thus diminished. Introjection of a feared object serves to avoid anxiety by internationalizing the aggressive characteristics of the object, there by putting the aggression under one's control. The aggression is no longer felt as coming from outside but is taken with in and used defensively, turning the person's weak, passive position into an active, strong one. Introjection can also rise out of a sense of guilt, in which the self – punishing introject is attributable to the hostile destructive component of an ambivalent tie to an object. The self-punitive qualities of

the object are taken over and established within one's self as a symptom or character trait, which effectively represents destruction.

Passive–Aggressive Behavior. Aggression toward an object expressed indirectly and ineffectively through passivity, masochism, and turning against the self.

Projection (Immature): Attributing one's own unacknowledged feelings to others; it includes severe prejudice, rejection of intimacy through suspiciousness, hypervigilance to external danger, and injustice collecting. Projection operates correlatively to introjections; the material of the projection is derived from the internalized configuration of the introjects.

Schizoid fantasy. Tendency to use fantasy and to indulge in autistic retreat for the purpose of conflict resolution and gratification.

Reaction Formation: A mechanism in which the person substitutes behavior, thoughts, or feelings that are diametrically opposed to his or her unacceptable ones.

Intellectualization: The individual deals with emotional conflicts, or internal or external stressors, by the excessive use of abstract thinking or generalizing to avoid experiencing disturbing feelings.

Negotiations with Fundamentalists Types

To better negotiate with the Ethnogeographic types, know your own biases first. Learn to block them out, to maintain a clear and more objective role in negotiating. Issues of transference and counter-transference are manifested here.

The ethnogeographic players work as part of a group. The group in itself enhances the goals to destroy “the common enemy”. Their motto is “to die for the cause is an honor”. Those who die with them, voluntarily or not, will also be rewarded in the after-life, youthful martyrdom, or both. So, to negotiation to kill or harm them is their means to their end; and therefore, of no benefit to the negotiator.

Clinical experience with such persons and individual members of groups suggested passive–aggressive characteristics. The symptoms of passive–aggressive personality disorder all revolve around the central theme that the person with such a disorder is sabotaging efforts directed at getting him or her to work or socialize at an expected level.

Usually, such people think they are doing better work than they really are and get very angry when others make useful suggestions about how their performance might be improved. They tend to be critical of those in authority.

This person, or individual within-the-group, asks for help but then does not comply with the advice or evidence of cooperation.

The Retributional Terrorist – type 4

These are individuals who had no medical or psychological history of psychopathology. They may not have belonged to or favor any particular religious or political group or groups. Furthermore, they may not have desired any notion of joining such. Yet, their home, community, family members, or all were destroyed by deliberately planned war, crisis, or terror on innocent and civilian locations.

The individual who survives an atrocity will seek revenge (punishment or injury inflicted in return for what one has suffered), through retaliation (to repay in kind or to make a counter-attack) and revolt (to rise in rebellion; to be in a mood of protest or defiance). Retribution (“deserved punishment, requital, usually for evil done” *The Oxford Reference Dictionary, 1986*) becomes the focus for this person.

The Retributional Terrorist finds he or she have nothing to loss. They have loss everything of meaning in their life. And they will be find justice by their definition. However, the realization of isolation is clear when they are frustrated by not being able to reach their target - the individual or group that caused them the grief.

These individual are found to suffer from the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can strike anyone who survives a severe physical or mental trauma. The disorder has gained notoriety form the frequency with which it afflicts war veterans, but a much wider population, including children, are at risk. This population includes people who have been beaten, raped, tortured, or witness to gruesome accidents, catastrophes or natural disasters.

Symptoms of PTSD can appear soon after the trauma or be delayed months or years. But, eventually, people with the disorder begin to re-experience the traumatic event or the anxiety associated with it. The most dramatic symptoms are the distressing recollections, nightmares or daytime flash backs in which the trauma is “replayed”.

Nightmares can be also severe that Retributional Terrorists wake from sleep screaming. Flashbacks can include a dissociative state in which victims actually lose touch with reality.

Other symptoms include a kind of emotional anesthesia called psychic numbing, which leaves Retributional Terrorists disinterested in the world around them. They may withdraw from family and friends, leaving themselves increasingly isolated.

Retributional Terrorists often try particularly hard to avoid situations that remind them of their traumas. Even minor similarities can trigger symptoms. Someone who had been severely assaulted by a policeman for e.g. may avoid watching television, lest a similar situation be depicted. Someone who watched a friend drown may attempt to avoid seeing any body of water. This avoidance behavior can become so consuming that Retributional Terrorists are nearly house bound.

Some victims of PTSD report being extremely “touchy”, easily startled or easily moved to anger and violence. They can experience all the symptoms of panic disorder. PTSD also leaves people at risk for depression. Low mood, insomnia, difficulty concentrating, feelings of guilt and bodily aches and pains are all common complaints.

In Post Traumatic Stress Disorder the traumatic event is quite prominent in the Retributional Terrorist’s memory, not locked away in the unconscious. The disturbing memories are so easily triggered, in fact, that the mind initially seems to cushion itself against possible reminders. It accomplishes this through symptoms such as inattention to one’s surroundings, emotional numbness, social withdrawal and narrowing of one’s range of thought. Retributional Terrorists are also at great risk of turning to alcohol or illicit drugs in order to blunt their emotions.

Defense Mechanisms of Retributional Type (with or without PTSD)

Controlling: Excessive attempt to manage or regulate events or objects in the environment in the interest of minimizing anxiety and solving internal conflicts.

Rationalization: Justification of attitudes, beliefs, or behavior that may otherwise be unacceptable by an incorrect application of justifying reasons or the invention of a convincing fallacy.

Anticipation: Realistic anticipation of or planning for future inner discomfort.

Intellectualization: The individual deals with emotional conflicts, or internal or external stressors, by the excessive use of abstract thinking or generalizing to avoid experiencing disturbing feelings.

Negotiations with the Retributional Terrorist

Negotiations with the Retributional Terrorist can best be served by reminding him or her that innocent people will be harmed, as his or her own innocent family or community were harmed. This fourth type uses hostages as instrumental victims for negotiations only and does not prefer to harm them. He or she, however, cares little for their own life since they have little for which to live.

SUMMARY

Are there similarities in these four types of violators? Could one make a different excuse or explanation between terrorists and “freedom fighters”? Certainly, not the psychopathic type; but it is easier, or possibly acceptable, to look at the two Ethnogeographic type and the Retributional Type as “freedom fighters”.

Frustrations, insults, and aggressive behavior heighten the aggressive tendencies of victimized people. Therefore, they may join a group – religious or political that targets the same offenders, as the person who seeks a specific target and limits vengeance to the person, group, or nation that caused their atrocity. The groups can amplify aggressive reactions partly by diffusing responsibility (Gaebelein and Mander 1978, Mikolic 1997).

Terrorist groups are not restricted to one ethnic or socioeconomic group. They cross national boundaries, and exist in all areas of the country, region, and globally. Both male and female get involved in terrorist groups. Potential terrorist group recruits may suffer from a poor self-image or low self-esteem, and may feel isolated from their peers. While some may be actively recruited, some join the terrorist group by default, they were never discouraged from getting involved in the sacrificial lifestyle. Many terrorist group members have frequent contact with positively rewarding aspects of society but the terrorist group begins to replace their community which has been targeted by another group (race, creed, culture) for political or religious differences.

People *join terrorist groups as the soldiers* for many reasons, and the circumstances differ with each individual member. Common reasons for an adolescent to join a terrorist group include:

- Low self-esteem and Little Chance of Future Growth
- Family Issues (usually economic oppression)
- Peer Pressure
- Respect and Promised Recognition
- Excitement
- Protection from Fear of Threat
- Family Involvement
- Little or No Resistance or Discouragement to Join
- Revenge of a Common Enemy

There is no one thing that will push a person to join a terrorist group, and he or she will not become a hard-core terrorist group member overnight. Many times, a person joins a terrorist group because they have a great need to feel important (socially, economically) and are welcomed in a group. If that need is not met in a positive fashion, the person may try looking for reinforcement from any group. But this would be very dangerous – perceived as treason.

Why Do Persons Join Terrorist Groups

There are many reasons why persons join terrorist groups, but like most youth activities, whether criminal or otherwise, most persons join Ethno-geographic terrorist groups for companionship, fame, and promised Eternal Life.

The desire to belong to a terrorist group may stem from a variety of motives, but the one thing all terrorist groups have in common is a claim on territory or religious rights and acceptance. A terrorist group's territory may be a community, a region, or the entire world. Members wear the terrorist group colors, or a particular style of clothes and symbols, which usually indicates struggle and power in certain communities. Terrorist groups have leaders, and sometimes officers.

Drugs may be a means of economics for a terrorist group and therefore are different from other kinds of terrorist groups that do not depend on drugs for financial strength. They can be more organized, and much more dangerous. They are responsible for the distribution of illegal drugs from marijuana to cocaine, and heroin. Terrorist group members may sell drugs, carry drugs and covertly protect dealers and other terrorist group members from authorities or rival terrorist groups.

One attraction to terrorist groups is the loyalty members seem to have for each other. Terrorist groups seem to provide an instance group of "best friends".

The arms sales are another economic stronghold quite common via the terrorist groups. Some terrorist group shootings involve other terrorist group members. But recently more and more innocent bystanders have been killed by terrorist shootings. A terrorist group's main duty is usually to protect its mission – nation or religion, or both. Simply wearing another terrorist group's colors on a terrorist group's turf is reason enough to be killed. The killing of a terrorist group member usually provokes a revenge killing, which in turn provokes a revenge killing, and on and on.

There are several reasons people will join terrorist groups.

Peer pressure is probably the most common reason a person will join a terrorist group. Persons want to belong and don't want to be considered "outsiders." Sometimes terrorist group membership is a family tradition. Persons may follow an older brother or sister or a parent into joining a terrorist group.

The third and least understood reason is for protection. Persons who are targets of terrorist group recruitment may find themselves in a lose/lose situation. They may not want to join the terrorist group, but if they refuse to do so, they may be victimized by the terrorist group that was attempting to recruit them. Or they may be fearful of other terrorist groups in the area and may join a rival terrorist group in an effort to have "back-up" in the event another terrorist group attempts to victimize a person.

Someone who makes the choice to join a terrorist group usually sets his life up to end in one of two ways - martyr's death or fugitive.

Terrorist groups can make one feel important, can make one believe that they belong, and can even make you behavior rich in the unending spirit of reward for "the cause". But is the choice to join a terrorist group worth the destruction caused in the terrorist group members' lives and in the community?

Levels of Membership in the Terrorist Groups

It takes a while for a person to be accepted by a terrorist group. They must prove their loyalty to the group through certain actions.

Fantasy/At-risk Member

This is a person who is fascinated and obsessed with the terrorist group lifestyle. They are aware of media images of terrorist groups, and may imitate the behavior seen on the TV screen. The terrorist group attracts his/her attention, but is not a major part of his/her life.

Associate Member

This is a young person who has gained knowledge about a particular terrorist group, and is attempting to prove him/herself to that terrorist group. He/she will wear the terrorist group's colors, hang out with members on a regular basis, and may begin to draw the terrorist group's graffiti on his/her personal materials, photos of the group's leaders and martyrs. This young person will begin to have difficulties at home and in school, and will be seeking regular association with terrorist group members. At this stage, this vulnerable minded individual is willing to do anything to get into the terrorist group. This person may be most dangerous – naïve, dependant upon approval, and inexperienced to know indispensability and vulnerability.

Hardcore Member

When a person has proven his/her loyalty to the terrorist group, he or she is initiated into the terrorist group. The hardcore member may readily admit, and be proud of his/her membership. They will take an oath to the terrorist group name or symbolic ritual, signs, and pledges. When persons get to this level, they are usually not involved with school and may little or no contact with their biological family and community. Hardcore members call the shots in the terrorist group - they are "in charge."

In the laboratory, researchers can test and revise theories under controlled conditions. Real-world events inspire ideas and provide the venue for applying our theories. Today, the terrorist has no gender, age, or national limits.

As professionals seeking knowledge of such individuals, we must look at each holistically – cognitively, emotionally, behaviorally, physically – and the affects of the environment on the total person. By effectively testing theories and learning real-world facts with open minds, professionals can reach justice in improving human understanding and fostering cooperation.

Further research and case studies are needed to elaborate on the types of terrorists and the negotiations strategies required for a fuller and effective process.

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Born in the United States of America, he practiced psychology in Washington, D.C. since 1979. The diverse cross-cultural services are in **Clinical, Forensic, Educational, Organizational, and International** consultation. In 1990, Dr. Hamden established and expanded the professional psychology practice to the United Arab Emirates.

He earned a Ph.D. in Psychology and continued post-graduate studies in Modern Psychoanalysis. Dr. Hamden consults in *Clinical Psychology, Domestic Relations, Crisis Intervention, Trauma, and Homeland Security* (**Diplomate**, American College of Forensic Examiners International), *Certified Medical Investigator – Level V* and *Certified in Homeland Security – Level V, Certified Forensic Consultant* (peer review and examination).

For professional distinction, Dr. Hamden was awarded **Fellow** status in the American College of Forensic Examiners International. He also serves on the Board of Advisors (2004-2007), Vice-Chair (2007-2008) **American Board of Psychological Specialties** of ACFEL.

With the **University of Maryland**, Dr. Hamden was a 1986 Visiting Fellow at the *Center for International Development and Conflict Management*. His research and consulting was in Political Psychology – the psychology of terrorists and hostage situations. He coined the term “*The Retributional Terrorist – Type 4*”. His work was published as a chapter in a 4-volume text entitled **The Psychology Terrorism**, Dr. Chris Stout (editor, 2002). Also, he is invited to write a chapter entitled “**Unresolved Trauma and the Thirst for Revenge: The Retributional Terrorist**” for **Volume I** of a three-volume project by James JF Forest, Ph.D. of The West Point United States Military Academy.

Dr. Hamden has consulted in *Critical Incident Debriefing* and *Emergency Planning* as well as *Trauma Situation and Identification* and *Political Psychology* in **Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Algeria, Iraq**, and other international locations.

As a member of the American Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates (ABC), he serviced as the 2002 Chair of the *Overseas Security Advisory Committee (OSAC)*. In 2003, he was elected to the *Board of Directors* of the ABC and was the OSAC liaison.

In 2007, Dr. Hamden was selected to service on the *Workshop Committee* and be member of the *Plenary Committee* for the **European Space Agency** and consult on *Psychology of Space Travel*.

By invitation, he has presented before the **US Senate** and wrote for the **US House of Representatives**:

“*Psychological Aspects of IsTishHad: Suicide or Sacrifice*” expert witness testimony presented before the United States Senate Anti-Terrorism Caucus, special topic on the Middle East suicide missions. Washington, D.C. 26 March 1986

“*Islamic Fundamentalism: Terrorism or Psychological Resistance*” written testimony submitted to and published in the series of HEARINGS before the subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representative. Washington, D.C., Fall / Winter 1985, Page 416-425.

Other expert presentation include

Psychology of Terrorists: 4 types
Seminar/workshop presented at the September 2006 Conference
American Board of Certification in Homeland Security

Psychology of Safety: a challenged perspective
Seminar/workshop presented at the September 2006 Conference
American Board of Certification in Homeland Security

“*The Retributional Terrorist - Type 4*”. University of Maryland - Center for International Development and Conflict Management, College Park. Archives, Fall 1987

Dr. Hamden has appeared as an expert in international media: ABC 20/20, Al Jazeera English TV, ABC Good Morning America, National Public Radio, CNN, BBC, Al Arabiya, Canada AM, and many others; local networks have regularly called on his professional analysis and testimony in various topics on psychological profiling and critical incidents.

Under the auspices of the Emirates Medical Association, Dr. Hamden was the 2003 President of the Emirates Psychological Society which coordinated the 1st *Middle East / North Africa Regional Conference on Psychology* (MENA RCP). The International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPSyS) in collaboration with The International Academy of Applied Psychology (IAAP) and The International Association of Cross Cultural Psychology (IACCP) selected Dr. Hamden as *President* of the MENA RCP held December 2003 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Newly developed, *In The Psychologist's Chair® with Dr. Raymond Hamden*. This program debuted in Dubai, with a season of VIP guests, topics, and helpful ideas. Having published in several magazines weekly and monthly, he had a weekly Psychology segment on English Radio (Emirates Radio2). On Arabic Radio (ARN, 98.9 FM) he was featured from September 2001 to July 2002. Currently, Dr. Hamden consults as a Media Psychologist to various media sources.

He is *Director* of the Human Relations Institute in Dubai Knowledge Village. Dr. Hamden is a **Life Member** in the Association of Psychological Sciences (formerly American Psychological Society), International Society of Political Psychology, International Council of Psychologists, and American College of Forensic Examiners International.

Psychology of Terrorists: 4 types Raymond H. Hamden
Terrorist Types and Psychological Characteristics

Compiled by Dr. Raymond H. Hamden
Clinical & Forensic Psychologist

Psychology of Terrorists: 4 types

Raymond H. Hamden

The following table lists what this author has learned to be some of the characteristics of the various terrorist types.

Psychopathic	Ethno-Geographic (political/religious)	Retributional
Age Varies Amoral (Lacks Superego) Criminal type Excitable Exploitive Impulsive Insincerity Intelligent Irresponsible Manipulative Narcissistic No Goals in life in general Non-Discriminative Targeting Non-Ethical (Lacks Superego) Personality Disorder Untruthful Non-suicidal	Close Family Ties Displaces Words “wrong doing” with the word “war” Educable Egocentric Emotional Priority for the Cause External Superego Familial Conditioning And Loyalty Ideological Inflexible Intelligent Male or Female Suicidal – Martyr “for the cause” Rigid Seeks Control Specific Goals Set Youth or Young Adult	Age Varies Close Family Ties Educable Ethical Good Use of Psychological Defense Mechanisms, yet Possibly Explosive Helplessness Hopelessness Intelligent Male Or Female May Later Join a Support “Group” Moral history No Familial Conditioning or Loyalty to a Particular Group No Premorbid Traits Leading to Personality Disorder Object Relative Significant Early-Life Trauma Onset Discriminates Targets Social history with no legal problems Suicidal “for personal reasons”