

## 1: NPR Choice page

*Terrorism is a pervasive enough part of our lives to merit more consistent news coverage, and journalists on the terrorism beat must develop expertise about this multidimensional topic.*

Lawyer, opinion journalist and political satirist. The Western media is only too willing to be used. ISIS desires to create a caliphate over which it exercises total control. Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Hamas and the rest have somewhat less ambitious goals of conquest, but each uses shocking, deadly acts to build their brand as ruthless fighters to whom resistance is allegedly futile. Their actions have limited consequences if they cannot get their message out. Unfortunately, as it seeks to inform, Western media encourages terrorists through its choice of coverage and the language it uses. The media has fallen into patterns of reportage of deadly incidents that convey a message other than the intended one. This has the effect of encouraging terrorists. It should be noted there are brilliant, courageous members of the media who daily put their lives at risk covering conflicts around the world. At least journalists have been killed in the last 25 years, with seventy-three killed in alone. This article is not about them, and is in a sense a tribute to them. They are cowardly, attacks on non-combatants. The concept of responsibility exists in a different dimension than terrorism. We all want to be responsible, right? Terrorist are responsible to nothing but their ideology. They are guilty of terrorizing us. The media should tell it like it is. All it takes is one spokesperson to say "We did it" for the reporters to be running to their smartphones to lodge the story. The media should demand to see actual evidence of everything the terrorists say. Terrorists are willing to kill scores of people with a truck. Make them prove their claims. The media should insist on two sources and original documentation. Its intent is to terrorize society twice for each attack. The media must realize that its coverage of an attack terrorizes society a second time. Endless repetition enhances the image they want to portray to the world. If ISIS puts out a video, they want us to see it. Its as simple as that. Terrorists rely on Western media to spread their message, create fear and recruit followers. I was looking for an image that conveyed the concept of terrorism in a non-exploitative way, and that is the image I chose. The media should look at what the terrorists want regarding publicity, and then do the opposite. Personally I have enough faith in the power of words to be able to imagine horrific scenes without seeing a head oddly misplaced on a body. You can get through life and be anti-terrorist without viewing that image, which can never be unseen. Granted, people want to know what happened, but is our society enhanced by endless repetition, and the showing of images of terrorist porn; of bodies that are not intact? This writer thinks not. Adults can find it on the internet if they want. The media should not make it easy for them, just for the sake of viewers, clicks or page views. Nobody needed pictures to get the idea. Avoiding sensationalist coverage includes keeping terrorism, and the threat of terrorism, in perspective. To hear politicians and pundits, terrorists have every one of us in their sights, and they are living next door. In truth, the odds are infinitesimal that any of us will ever face a terrorist attack. For example, eighty four people were killed in Nice, France last week. Meanwhile, Americans were killed in auto accidents over the same period. Terrorism is not new to the world. There were terrorist bombings in New York in The media narrative thus adopts the destructive claims of the Donald Trumps and the Newt Gingriches of the world who blame Radical Islam for Terrorism for all that ails the world. They fail to acknowledge that the vast, vast majority of victims are Muslims, themselves. Its not about religion. Hillary Clinton , Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren believe that it is self-defeating to blame all Muslims for the attacks even if the perpetrators are also Muslim, as we need the support of Muslim countries to battle the scourge of terrorism. The solution cannot be imposed from Washington or London or Paris. Islam must heal Islam.

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