

Edited by
Ophir Falk and Henry Morgenstern

SUICIDE TERROR

UNDERSTANDING AND CONFRONTING
THE THREAT

SUICIDE TERROR

Understanding and Confronting the Threat

EDITED BY

Ophir Falk

Henry Morgenstern

 **WILEY**

A JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC., PUBLICATION



Copyright © 2009 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey
Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 750-4470, or on the web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permission>.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services or for technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department within the United States at (800) 762-2974, outside the United States at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic formats. For more information about Wiley products, visit our web site at www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

Suicide terror : understanding and confronting the threat / Ophir Falk, Henry Morgenstern, editors.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-470-08729-9 (cloth)

1. Terrorism—Psychological aspects. 2. Terrorism—Prevention. 3. Terrorists—Suicidal behavior. 4. Suicide bombers. 5. Suicide bombings. I. Morgenstern, Henry, 1951–

II. Falk, Ophir, 1968–

HV6431.S83 2009

363.325—dc22

2008038591

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SUICIDE TERROR



PREFACE

Sunday is the first day of the week in Israel. It has that “Monday morning” feeling, when everyone heads back to their routines. Both men and women serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), two years for women and three for men from the age of 18.

These young men and women were making their way, sleepily, from the welcome relief of home and home comforts, back to their bases for another hectic week of service on the cool morning of Sunday, January 22, 1995. Many of them converged on a junction to the north of Tel Aviv and near the coastal city of Netanya, where buses would ferry them all over the country. The junction served as a meeting point for paratroop units that were reporting back to duty at 9 A.M. sharp. They frequently set their watches by the beeps of the 9 A.M. news; a news bulletin few Israelis miss. That morning the junction would have been swamped with men and women in uniform rushing to get back to their bases on time.

HaSharon Junction, commonly known as Beit Lid Junction, is not a scenic crossroads. It intersects Highway 4, which goes north and south, and Highway 57, which goes east and west. It was at that time really a large bus stop with several covered and uncovered stops for dozens of different bus lines that came in and out to pick up anyone there. On the southwest corner of the junction is the Ashmoret Prison—a civilian jail.

For weeks, a group of young Palestinian men allowed into Israel to work and earn money for their families had been doing reconnaissance on the junction, and it had nothing to do with which bus they should take.

Notwithstanding the effort that had been made to establish the Palestinian Authority as a result of Oslo agreements, along with the efforts of the Rabin Government to placate the demands of the then-head of the Palestinian Authority, Yassir Arafat, other factions within the Authority were more than ready to play the bad guys while Arafat feigned conciliation. The Palestine Islamic Jihad funded by people—such as Professor Sami al-Arian at the South Florida University in Tampa—and a network that spread across the United States—had other plans.

At 9:30 A.M., on that fateful morning a Palestinian named Anwar Soukar feigned intense stomach pains and dropped to his knees. As soldiers gathered around him to help, Soukar reached into his bag and detonated the first bomb.

Bodies were instantly transformed into bleeding projectiles of disconnected appendages as a result of the blast wave—many to be found as shreds embedded

in the surrounding trees, on fences, and under bus benches. The packed scene of devastation was now the scene of hundreds running toward the blast to rescue whomever they could. As first responders began descending on the scene in great numbers to tend to those wounded with a chance of survival, another member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Salaah Shaaker, detonated a bomb that he wore on his chest so that the blast would go out and kill and maim as many first responders as possible.

The massacre caused the deaths of 21, and more than 69 were injured. It was not Israel's first suicide bombing; there had already been others, but it was the first double bombing; a suicide terror mission designed to instill fear and hopelessness in the population. Almost all the victims were paratroopers from the same brave units that had once freed Jerusalem—now helplessly slaughtered—and it underlined the vulnerability of first responders to this type of attack.

At nearby Ashmoret Prison, which held the founder of another bloody terrorist group known as Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin was whisked away; the prison officials believed that this might be the first volley in an attempt to free him. In the Palestinian Authority, the engineer or master bomb maker Ihyyah Ayyash, would have been celebrating his handy work.

For the Israeli Government's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who told his cabinet a few days later that suicide terror was a strategic threat to the existence of the State of Israel, this was an attack that marked a turning point. Benjamin Netanyahu, who would be Prime Minister of Israel after Rabin, writing back in 1986, claimed that suicide terror was a strategic threat to the world (see the case studies in Chapter 4).

Indeed, in the 1980s and 1990s, international terror or the Global Jihad prepared itself and conducted many bloody attacks using the tactic or weapon of suicide terror, culminating in the bloodiest day of them all, 9/11/2001. Since then there have been thousands of attacks, especially in Iraq.

This book provides the professional first responder and student of Homeland Security with an understanding of suicide terror as a tactic and also as a strategic tool used by terrorists worldwide. We have based the text on diligently researched findings, aimed at constructing a full picture of the challenge posed by the threat.

The Introduction sets the international context of the development of this weapon. Chapter 1 shows how the Global Jihad justifies the use of indiscriminate murder, the sources for the justification by radicals, and where this may take us. Chapter 2 looks at the Israeli experience in the eyes of those who most contributed to confronting this strategic threat to Israel's existence and, in that sense, makes a unique contribution to understanding the Israeli difficulties in dealing with such an effective mode of terror. Nothing would be complete in the realm of terrorism that is detailed here in 3 chapters without a close look at the Iraqi experience that U.S. forces have encountered—without precedence in the history of terrorism. Chapter 4 looks at the wide reach of suicide terror and its internationalism. Some of the probable scenarios that pose the greatest risk and some ideas on mitigation are detailed in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 addresses U.S. law enforcement's challenge in dealing with the threat of this weapon. No study

would be complete without a look at the medical response necessary to save lives and provide insights into the results of attacks as provided by Chapter 7.

It is our hope that we create a better understanding—and since knowledge is power—enabling our first responder community and homeland security professionals to be more ready for the challenges that this terrorist weapon of choice poses.

Through better understanding, we hope to make a modest contribution to avoiding the death and destruction that suicide terror wreaks on its victims.

OPHIR FALK
HENRY MORGENSTERN

Tel Aviv, Israel
Miami Florida
April 2009

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Writing about suicide terrorism is much easier than confronting it. We acknowledge and appreciate that this book was made possible by those that led the confrontation against terrorism and some of who kindly shared with us from their in-depth insight and experience. The interviewees to whom we owe our deep gratitude for their time and efforts are (in alphabetical order): Uri Bar Lev, Israeli Police Commander of the Southern District, and former Commander of Elite Counterterrorism Units; Avi Dichter, Head of the ISA 2000–2005, and Internal Security Minister since 2006; Zohar Dvir, Yamam commander 2002–2005; Giora Eiland, General (retired) Head of the National Security Council 2003–2006; Yitzchak Eitan, General (retired), Commander of the Central Command 2000–2002; Dr. Boaz Ganor, Head of the International Counterterrorism Center (ICT); H.D. Lieutenant Colonel, Head of IDF Negotiation Unit; Yossi Kuperwasser, Brigadier General (retired), Head of the IDF's Intelligence Research Department 2001–2006; Lior Lotan, Colonel (retired) former Head of IDF Negotiations Unit; Dan Meridor, former Minister of Justice, and the minister in charge of the intelligence community 2001–2003; Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel 1996–1999; Ilan Paz, Brigadier General (retired), brigade commander during Intifada and head of the civil administration in Judea and Samaria, 2001–2005; Hagai Peleg, Commander of Special Israeli Police Unit—Yamam, 1999–2001; Moshe Yaalon, IDF Chief of Staff 2002–2005; Danny Yatom, Head of the “Mossad” 1996–1998 and Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, Head of IDF Intelligence 2002–2006.

We owe a debt of gratitude to a man whose voice has been warning of this scourge for some time. Benjamin Netanyahu, who, as this book goes to print, is charged with forming the next Israeli government, has been a life-long fighter against terrorism. Mr. Netanyahu knows more than most, of the very painful consequences of terror attacks and has been warning the West about the threat and consequences of terrorism as far back as the 1970s. He has been a strong source of inspiration to the editors and many others besides, for which we now take the opportunity to thank him.

Finally, we have the hope that this book makes a very modest contribution to understanding this threat and that it may be a contributing factor in leaving the world a safer place for our children. For the authors, and for most of humanity, our children are the ultimate inspiration.

O. F.
H. M.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Leonard A. Cole is an adjunct professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey and an expert on bioterrorism and terror medicine. Trained in the health sciences and public policy, he holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University, New York, and a DDS from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia. Cole is a fellow of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and recipient of grants and fellowships from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has written for professional journals as well as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Scientific American*. Cole has appeared frequently on network and public television and is the author of seven books including the award-winning *The Anthrax Letters: A Medical Detective Story* and *Terror: How Israel Has Coped and What America Can Learn*.

Willam Cooper is the Chief Executive Officer for Leading Beyond Tradition in Mukilteo, Washington and a retired police officer with extensive background in law enforcement and corporate security. He holds an MBA and second Master degree in Public Administration and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Northwest Law Enforcement Executive Command College. Cooper is the author of *First Responders Guide to Terrorist Attacks* and is a frequent public speaker and teacher, specializing in anti-terrorism and international terrorism.

Ophir Falk is a partner at the Naveh, Kantor Even-Har law firm, Ramat Gan, Israel, and a research fellow at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Herzilya, Israel where he has published numerous articles in the field. Mr. Falk holds an MBA and has more than a decade of experience in various security capacities. Falk was a risk consultant for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, where he took part in risk assessments for Olympic venues and critical national infrastructure.

Dr. Ofer Israeli teaches courses on International Relations Theory, Complexity of International Relations, and Foreign Policy Decision-Making at the University of Haifa, Tel Aviv University, and at the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Academy, The Colleges for Strategic and Tactical Commanders, Israel. He is scheduled to begin post-doctorate research at Georgetown University, Washington D.C., in 2010.

Hadas Kroitoru is a researcher at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Herzliya, Israel. She specializes in global terrorist networks and risk assessments, with a particular interest in Turkey. Ms. Kroitoru is a former journalist with articles published in newspapers and magazines in the United States and throughout the Middle East.

Amir Kulick is a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies and earned a Master degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel. Between 1994 and 2006, he served as an officer in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Kulick's research focuses on Palestinian terror organizations and Hezbollah terror activity. In addition, he works as an international security consultant on intelligence evaluation and threat assessments.

Henry Morgenstern is the president of Security Solutions International, Miami Beach, Florida. His company has trained more than 700 federal, state, and local agencies to effectively confront the threat of terror and regularly takes groups of first responders to Israel to study homeland security. Mr. Morgenstern is a widely published author on the subject of suicide terror and has offered expert commentary on terror-related issues for NBC, ABC, CBS, Fox, numerous radio stations, and Web broadcasts.

Yaron Schwartz is a security analyst focusing on terrorism, Middle East affairs, and homeland security. He has advised various government entities and private sector companies, including the 2004 Athens Olympic Committee (ATHOC). Mr. Schwartz is the former director of the Institute for Counter-Terrorism's (ICT) U.S. office. He also served in the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Israeli Security Agency.

Dr. Shmuel Shapira is professor of Medical Administration at the Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine, currently the Deputy Director General of the Hadassah Medical Organization, and Director of the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Public Health Jerusalem, Israel. Shapira received his medical degree from the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Medicine. Professor Shapira is a Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and has served as the IDF Head of Trauma Branch. An authority on terror, trauma and emergency medicine, he instructs medical students, physicians, EMS, medical leaders, and rescue teams on terror medicine, management of mass casualty events, and advanced trauma life support. Dr. Shapira is co-editor of the textbook *Essentials of Terror Medicine* and has written many other trauma, terror medicine, and mass casualty management publications.

Shabtai Shoval is head of Suspect Detection Systems, a homeland security company in Tel Aviv, Israel. His involvement in combating terrorism began in 1979 when he joined the Israeli Defense Forces, serving in an elite anti-terrorism combat unit. In 1982, after completing his three years tour of duty including participation in the 1982 Israel-Lebanon war, he studied political science at Tel Aviv University while continuing involvement in classified

intelligence issues. In 1982, in Washington D.C., Shoval served as an Israeli Embassy staff member for media-related issues and as advisor to Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, then deputy Ambassador General. Shoval has held high- profile marketing and public relations positions, including spokesperson for the City of Tel Aviv; a senior position in Gitam-BBDO, a leading advertising agency; and president of the ICTA (Israel Cable TV Association) where he was responsible for broadcasting content, political lobbying, marketing, and business activities for CATV companies. In 1992, Benjamin Netanyahu asked Shoval to join the Prime Minister's office as a special advisor for background on the Madrid Talks regarding the future of the Middle East. In 1995, Shoval joined the telecommunication investment company Telrad Holdings, as Vice President for Digital TV, and in 1999 he joined Comverse Inc., a leading high-tech company (NASDAQ CMVT), and successfully managed their Digital TV division.

CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
Contributors	xvii
 INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE WEAPON	 1
<i>Ophir Falk</i>	
Background	1
Defining the Threat	2
Definition Criteria	6
Proposed Definitions	6
Analyses of Data	23
Overview	25
Endnotes	26
 1 THE GLOBAL JIHAD	 31
<i>Henry Morgenstern</i>	
Introduction: Where Is the Jihad Today?	31
Do We Need to Know Why?	32
The Meaning of Jihad for the Jihadists (Mujahedeen)	35
The Origins and Evolution of the Global Jihad	35
Osama bin Laden and Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri—The Al-Qaeda View of the Jihad	36
Support for the Global Jihad	41
Seminal Ideas and Movements that Have Led to the Global Jihad	42
Tauhid—The Oneness of God	42
Takfir	43
Jihad	43
Jahaliyyah	44
The Spread of the Jihad Across the World	46
Case Study of Jihad Development: Egypt	47
The Jihad in the United States	49

Toward a Legal Definition of Terrorism in the United States	51
Financing and Organization	53
The Jihad: Version 2.0	56
The Jihad's Virtual 007	57
Real-Time Threat Example	59
Understanding Techno-Intelligence Signatures	59
Internet Activity and Terrorist Finance—Synergy in Cyberspace	60
The Global Jihad Has a New Home Base—The Internet	61
Conclusions	61
Appendix 1: Internet Sites and the Global Jihad	62
Appendix 2: Incidents in the United States since 9/11	63
Endnotes	68

2 ISRAEL'S CONFRONTATION WITH SUICIDE TERRORISM 73

Amir Kulick

Background	73
Arab–Israeli Conflict	73
The First Circle: The Palestinian Suicide Bomber and His Motives	87
The Second Circle: The Organizational Wrapping	91
The Third Circle: The Social Wrapping	96
How Has Israel Confronted Suicide Terrorism?	105
The Prevention Circle	107
The Delay Circle	108
The Consequence Mitigation Circle	109
The Intelligence Level	110
The Intelligence Challenge in the War on Suicide Terrorism	110
Israeli Intelligence	112
The Operational Level	118
The Evolution of Israel's Responses to Suicide Terrorism—A Brief Historic Review	118
The Israeli Methods of Action	122
Targeted Killing	123
Passive Measures	135
Public Resilience	142
Deterring Suicide Bombers	142
Relevant Lessons for American Law Enforcement	144
Key Lessons Learned—Operative Level	145
Specific Lessons—Operational-Tactical Level	150

Summary and Conclusions	155
Endnotes	157
3 THE EAGLE AND THE SNAKE: AMERICA'S EXPERIENCE WITH SUICIDE BOMBINGS	175
<i>Yaron Schwartz</i>	
The Origins of Suicide Attacks Against the United States	175
Suicide Bombings in Iraq	179
The Insurgency: Who, Why, When, and How	182
The Role of Suicide Bombings	193
Assessing the Surge	199
The Impact of Iraq and Its Lessons	208
Future Threats and Suicide Terrorism	213
Endnotes	214
Bibliography	221
4 THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SUICIDE TERRORISM	225
<i>Ophir Falk and Hadas Kroitoru</i>	
Lebanon	228
Hezbollah	228
Hezbollah's International Reach	231
The Iran–Hezbollah–al-Qaeda Connection	233
Hezbollah's Direct Threat to U.S. Homeland	234
Sri Lanka	235
A History of Conflict	235
The Tamil Tigers and Suicide Terrorism	236
Consequences and Counterterrorism Efforts	238
Israel	241
Historical Background	242
A Decade and a Half of Suicide Terrorism	243
Misconceptions	244
From Deterrence to Prevention and Preemption	244
Relevance to U.S. Homeland Security	247
Operational Lessons	247
India	248
History of Conflict	248
India's Experience with Suicide Terrorism	250
Turkey	253
Civil War and Civil Strife: The PKK's Answer to the "Kurdish Question"	253

Turkey's Experience with Suicide Terror	254
Islamic Groups Step Up to the Plate	258
Turkish Counterterrorism Tactics	259
Lessons from Turkey's Experience with Suicide Terrorism	261
Al-Qaeda	262
Establishing the "Base"	263
Al-Qaeda Organization: Affiliates and Networks	264
Al-Qaeda Attacks	266
Al-Qaeda in Europe	269
Al-Qaeda in Southeast Asia	273
Consequences and Counterterrorism	274
The Future of al-Qaeda	277
Chechnya	278
History of Conflict	278
Chechen Separatists and Suicide Terrorism	279
Consequences and Counterterrorism	288
Summary and Conclusions—The Internationalization of Suicide Terrorism	289
Endnotes	290

5 HIGH-RISK SCENARIOS AND FUTURE TRENDS 301

Ophir Falk

Scenario No. 1: Cyber and Physical Attack on Energy Distribution Systems	302
Description of Scenario	302
Vulnerability	305
Consequence	305
Means of Mitigation	306
Scenario No. 2: Attacks on and by Civilian Aircraft—Back to the Future	307
Description of Scenario	307
Vulnerability	309
Consequence	310
Means of Mitigation	310
Prosperity or Security in the Maritime Trade	311
Scenario No. 3: Dirty Bomb in Maritime Container	312
Description of Scenario	312
Vulnerability	314

Consequence	316
Means of Mitigation	317
Scenario No. 4: Blocking World Oil Transit by Sea	318
<i>Ofer Israeli</i>	
Description of Scenario	318
Vulnerability	320
Consequence	321
Means of Mitigation	324
Scenario No. 5: PC Doomsday	325
Description of Scenario	325
Vulnerability	326
Consequence	326
Means of Mitigation	327
Scenario No. 6: Suicide Terrorist Attack on Subway	
Followed by a Suicide Terrorist Attack on Premises of a Level I	
Trauma Center	327
<i>Shmuel C. Shapira</i>	
Description of Scenario	328
Vulnerability	328
Consequence	329
Means of Mitigation	329
Future Trends	331
Endnotes	333

6 METHODS FOR CONFRONTING SUICIDE TERROR	341
<i>William Cooper</i>	
Detection of Key Terrorist Activities	346
The Suicide Bomber	350
Detection of Terrorist Recruitment in the Community	350
Identifying Safe Houses and Planning Centers	353
Terrorist Means of Communication	355
Identifying Terrorist Transportation	363
Identifying Terrorist Financing	366
Identifying Paper Falsification	366
Land Attack Characteristics	367
Sea Attack Characteristics	368
Air Attack Characteristics	369
The Public and the Battle Against Terrorism	370
Legislation in the Battle Against Terrorism	371