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# AREN'T ALL SUICIDE BOMBERS TERRORISTS?

## Not According to the Star Tribune

Here's what the Editor of the Wall Street Journal's OpinionJournal.com, James Taranto, recently wrote about the Star Tribune's refusal to call those who deliberately kill Israeli civilians by their real name -- terrorists:

### Twin Cities Double Standard By James Taranto — February 4, 2002 Editor, Wall Street Journal's OpinionJournal.com

[T]he Minneapolis StarTribune is willing to call al Qaeda a terrorist organization. But if you murder only Jews, you are not a terrorist -- at least in the eyes of those who edit Minnesota's largest newspaper. We wish we were making this up, but it's right there in [a February 3] column by Star Tribune ombudsman Lou Gelfand. He quotes assistant managing editor Roger Buoen:

"In the case of the term 'terrorist,' other words--'gunman,' 'separatist' and 'rebel,' for example--may be more precise and less likely to be viewed as judgmental. . . . We also take extra care to avoid the term 'terrorist' in articles about the Israeli - Palestinian conflict because of the emotional and heated nature of that dispute. However, in some circumstances in which nongovernmental groups carry out attacks on civilians, the term is permitted. For example, Al-Qaida is frequently referred to by the Star Tribune and other news organizations as a 'terrorist network,' in part because its members

have been convicted of terrorist acts and because it has been identified by the United States and other countries as a terrorist organization."

Gelfand says, incredibly, that the paper's policy is "evenhanded"--though it is plainly a double standard at the expense of the Jewish state. What's more, the Star Tribune is even more hostile toward Jewish civilians than Yasser Arafat, at least if you believe Arafat's op-ed in [the] New York Times: "I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians. . . ."

The leading German daily, Die Welt, reported that Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat has offered \$5,000 to each al-Qaida fighter who is prepared to move to the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

If . . . an erstwhile al Qaeda member ends up massacring a bunch of Jews in Israel, will the StarTribune refer to him as a "former terrorist"?

Read the complete editorial online at: [www.opinionjournal.com/best/?id=95001822](http://www.opinionjournal.com/best/?id=95001822)

## The Star Tribune is Just Plain Wrong

US law defines terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents..." Our Government has formally declared violent Palestinian groups including Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades to be "terrorist organizations" because they deliberately target Israeli civilians for death. President

Bush, Senate Majority Leader Daschle, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, even Yasser Arafat, use the term "terrorists" to describe those involved in the pre-meditated, ongoing murder of Israelis in their shopping malls, discos, buses, streets and homes. The Star Tribune, however, seems to think that "extra care" must be taken to avoid that term when Israeli civilians are the targets.

**Terrorists are terrorists, whether the victims are Jews in Israel, Americans in the World Trade Center, or others. Why doesn't our local newspaper understand that?**

## WE CALL ON THE Star Tribune TO REFER TO THOSE WHO INTENTIONALLY KILL ISRAELI CIVILIANS AS TERRORISTS.

Tell the StarTribune how you feel.

Write or e-mail Tim McGuire, Editor, Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55488, or E-mail: [tmcguire@startribune.com](mailto:tmcguire@startribune.com) and please copy Minnesotans Against Terrorism at the address below.

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