REVIEW ESSAY


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Dedicated to the victims of the 2002 Bali bombings, *Terrorism, Trauma and Psychology: A multilevel victim perspective of the Bali bombings* provides a comprehensive insight into the dimensionality of the effects experienced by those involved in terrorist attacks: victims, their family members, and volunteer and professional emergency responders. Intended as an essential reading for scholars in the fields of social and clinical psychology, victimology, and terrorist studies, this book is also a good background reading for those willing to learn how the Bali bombings of 2002 rank on the global scale of terrorist attacks.

Stemming from action research, *Terrorism, Trauma and Psychology* is a result of an exploratory, qualitative study undertaken in the aftermath of the 2002 bombings, covering a time-span of 6 years. The study was conducted in Bali, Indonesia, and Perth, Australia, in 2008. The authors interviewed 50 members of both the Balinese and Perth communities about their reflections on the 2002 attacks. These interviews were designed to determine the multi-layered effects experienced by participants during and after the bombings in order to provide government and non-government agencies with suggestions for improving their readiness for and their emergency response to similar crises.

*Terrorism, Trauma and Psychology* consists of 9 chapters and offers an elaborate index for easy reference, as well as a list of abbreviations and a list of illustrations used throughout the study.

Chapter 1, *Introduction*, provides an overview of terrorism and explains the nature of terrorism on the basis of examples of terrorist attacks in countries which have experienced protracted conflict, such as Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Israel, Palestine and Afghanistan. This chapter also includes brief commentaries on modern-day terrorism, the future of terrorist organizations, state-sponsored terrorism, bio-terrorism, and economic terrorism.
Chapter 2, An exploratory, qualitative case-study approach, outlines well-defined goals of the study and research methodology used in it. Additionally, this chapter comments on locally established organizations, such as the Yayasan Kemanusiaan Ibu Pertiwi (YKIP) and the Yayasan Kids (YKIDS) whose purpose was to respond to the immediate health and educational needs of terrorist victims after the bombings. Besides socio-demographic data of the participants, including their age, gender, marital status, employment, religious beliefs, and level of education, chapter 3, The effects on victims in Bali, provides information on the forms of supports the victims obtained shortly after the bombings: medical, counseling, community, and spiritual. It was also identified that such outcomes as PTSD, depression, and anxiety were among those multi-layered effects that the authors of the book set out to explore. Similar to chapter 3, chapter 4, The effects on victims in Perth, and chapter 5, Other victims: who are they?, present interview data collected from the victims in Perth and other victim groups, such as volunteer responders, local business owners, and professionals. Although their responses were not as emotionally charged as of the directly targeted victims’ in Bali, the devastating effects of the bombings on these groups should not be overlooked.

Chapter 6, The aftermath of terrorist attacks, including the effects and support interventions, reviews interventions that use a psychological approach to support victims in crisis aftermath. Some of the approaches discussed in this chapter include the LINC community resilience model; psychological first aid; a Relational Sequence of Engagement (ARISE); Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD); and HEARTS treatment model.

As the title of chapter 7 suggests, Terrorist attacks, community-level effects, the media and how governments respond, it focuses on community and the effects of terrorist attacks on its vulnerable groups, such as women, seniors, and individuals with various mental conditions, as well as the discussion is centered around media and the role governments play in response to crisis. Chapter 8, A post-disaster planning framework – opportunities for multidisciplinary application, continues this discussion. An exhaustive list of recommendations is provided in regards to disaster management and immediate response, training and disaster response, policy and practice in disaster awareness and relief.

Chapter 9, Appendix: A reflexive diary and photograph narratives, reads as an afterword to the study. Through a series of photographs and snapshots of research undertaken by the authors, this chapter wraps up the study on a very emotional note by presenting pictures of local memorial sites, rooms, and boards with the names of those who lost their lives in the 2002 Bali bombings.

Without any hesitation Terrorism, Trauma and Psychology makes an important contribution to the fields of terrorist studies, social psychology, and trauma studies, drawing attention to the urgency of this topic given the surge of terrorist attacks around the world. Terrorism, Trauma and Psychology is a unique study as it draws primarily on the interviews with the victims of the 2002 Bali bombings. It, however, would benefit from more information from transcript interviews.