

To put it differently, now that we know that the alleged criminal responsible for the deaths of several score civilians near Oslo is not a Muslim, we know that Terrorists were not responsible. Just after the sensational news hit the headlines, everybody thought a Terrorist had done it...I mean...that it was an act of Terrorism.

After the news came, that the killing was the work of a blond-haired, young Nordic man with light blue eyes we could collectively let out a sigh of relief...

By the way, only Muslims can be Terrorists. This is what our English language now defines as people killing innocent by-standers going about their business, or so it would seem, reading Western newspapers. The term has morphed into functionally meaning "an act of violence committed by Muslims, who perhaps hate the freedoms we enjoy, or are fundamentally handicapped and insane".

It shouldn't matter what might cause it, or who the target is....So, the first response regarding Norway was, "This is Terrorism" (when it looked like Muslims had done it), followed by "No, it wasn't Terrorism, after all" when the blue-eyed boy turned out to be the culprit. It is only incidental that it was a politically motivated act, conducted indiscriminately upon civilians.

For example, the Americans and their allies are by definition, incapable of committing an act of Terrorism, even when the purpose of their violence is to terrorise civilian populations into passive submission, in the process "liberating"

THE NORWEGIAN GUNMAN WAS NOT A TERRORIST



They do not exploit our misguided nationalism, ignorance, shallow bigotry, white supremacy and prejudices, do they? Oh, no they don't, God forbid!

Now let us turn to our valiant forces 'defending' themselves in evil Terrorist-countries, where they are 'in harm's way' defending our freedoms, ridding the world of evil, and spreading good, wholesome democracy for everybody to eat to their hearts' content. Such humanitarian ventures have so far resulted in a million and a half dead Iraqi civilians (no, they didn't do 9-11, and most of them would not even have known about it). Establishing a robust, modern democracy in backward Afghanistan has eliminated many hundreds of thousands of Afghans, many of whom didn't even know what hit them, or why, despite all the hype about OBL and his cohorts in our media.

"NATO" aerial forces have managed to precisely target 'bad guys' who hide among civilians, gate-crash weddings, attend family funerals etc, and eliminate many dozens of them each time. Amazingly, rather than welcome these valiant efforts by "our" forces, the Afghan (and indeed more and more Pakistani) families and tax payers seem alienated and resent such kind gestures.

From six miles above ground, the bombers probably smell the Terrorists melting among the human shields, unwilling innocent children, their mothers and the elderly, but shrug off any guilt and release their loads. Thus we hear words like collateral, accidents, damage, inevitable, investigate, report, enquiry, apologise, compensate, error etc, all suitably desensitized to suit delicate audiences here.

The media and 'think tank' pundits use words like fundamentalist, forced martyrs, recruit, sanctuary, and maintain a straight face in public. The "war" is largely conducted in the safety of unassailable heights or via unmanned aerial vehicles on population centres, farms, cottage industries, outdoor markets and the like with impunity. Heavily armed military men kick down doors, point weapons at children, terrorise (no capital T, as this is not Terrorism) the young, the elderly, the weak while "looking for" Terrorists.

The hostile civilian environment makes their "missions" more justifiable, as "they" don't like "us", so why should we, huh? How dare these rag-heads shelter the "enemy" (who might be their father or brother who had seen their sisters and mothers raped, and killed, for example) So, shoot first and ask

questions after, ok?

These "collateral" damages go on for decades, and the traumatised hearts and minds of the civilians are hopefully suitably won over, and one day they would be thankful for our efforts...or so thinks who? When I suggest that an imperial military subjugates a whole civilian population with naked Terror, the media referred to earlier, refuse to consider my words.

Should Afghans (for example) not strengthen their bonds of kinship and act in solidarity against aggressors who have destroyed their land and killed their families wholesale? I do not dare suggest it, lest I too be cast as a

delusion and impotence.

With more than a dozen trillion dollars national debt, parasitic dependence on other countries that help prop up an obscene consumption pattern, exceptionalism as delusion of the highest order, what about some contemplative reflection on generosity, moderation, humility, modesty and compassion? No? To start with, lets not abuse the word Terror but use it appropriately, for what it means, and accept our mistakes and work to make up for the immeasurable harm brought to our planet. We may not have too long to dither.

Lasantha Pethiyagoda



their souls by the hundreds of thousands each year. However, if a Muslim attacks a military target that belongs to an invading occupying enemy in his own country, his act becomes an act of Terrorism.

If you don't believe me, just read any major newspaper when such things happen, and check the language. Listen carefully to the reporters breathlessly informing us from within our TVs. Check for phrases such as "Terrorism has been ruled out, as being the motivation for the slaughter" "If it turns out to be someone with political motivations, it is an indication that they are learning from Al-Qaeda" Nowadays, Terrorism never comes without accompanying words like Jihad, Islamic, hating our freedoms, religious, extremist, ideology, Madrassa, trained with Bin Laden, Osama, Taliban, fanatic, fundamental, Muslim, radical, cleric, and so on... What is missing are words like dark-skinned, not like us, bearded, sand-dunes, date palms, camels, Burqua, them (as opposed to us), upstart, uppity, insolent, disobedient, yuk, puke, sick...

Our diligent, fact-based, unbiased, balanced, non-aligned, independent, honest media do not manufacture and disseminate the "Muslims-did-it" myths, do they?

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