Invitation to the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy
Faculty Seminar

A lecture by:

Prof. Ariel Merari
Retired professor at the Department of Psychology, Tel Aviv University

On:

Driven to Death – Psychological and Social Aspects of Suicide Terrorism

Monday, October 11, 2010, 11:45 a.m., Faculty Club

Abstract

Empirical studies of Palestinian suicide bombers

The lecture will report a series of studies in which failed suicide bombers and organizers of suicide attacks were subjected to systematic clinical psychological interviews and tests and were compared to non-suicide terrorists. This direct psychological examination enabled a first-hand assessment of the personality characteristics and motivation of suicide bombers. Additional interviews conducted by seasoned area specialists provided a comprehensive picture of the ways by which the suicide bombers were recruited, prepared and dispatched to their planned death, as well as how they felt and behaved along this road.

The phenomenon of suicide terrorism will be explained by the interaction between the suicide bombers' personality characteristics, in interaction with group influence and public atmosphere.

To the Seminar Homepage: www.idc.ac.il/lauderschoolseminar
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