

United Nations University Global Seminar (Second Shimane-Yamaguchi Session)  
“Terrorism—A Global Challenge for Humanity”  
August 5-8, 2006

## **Lecture 6 "Mass Media, Terrorism, and Counterterrorism"**

**Brigitte Nacos**

### **Abstract**

In the age of global communication and international media the messengers of hate and terror are no longer impeded by national borders or regions; they can easily spread powerful words and images around the globe and condition impressionable men and women to be recruited into terrorist cells and networks. International and domestic terrorists exploit the traditional and the new communication means to achieve a host of crucial objectives--most of all the media-dependent dissemination of their “propaganda of the deed” among friends and foes. Whether in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, or any other region, the architects of terrorism exploit the mass-media—including the Internet for the benefit of their operational efficiency, information gathering, recruitment, fund raising, and propaganda schemes. But governments in countries whose populations are traumatized by terrorist attacks and threats thereof utilize the mass media as well to enlist public support for actual and alleged counterterrorist measures. This lecture, then, will explain how media and communication figure prominently, indeed indispensably, into terrorism and counterterrorism.

The author’s blog: <http://www.reflectivepundit.typepad.com/reflectivepundit/>