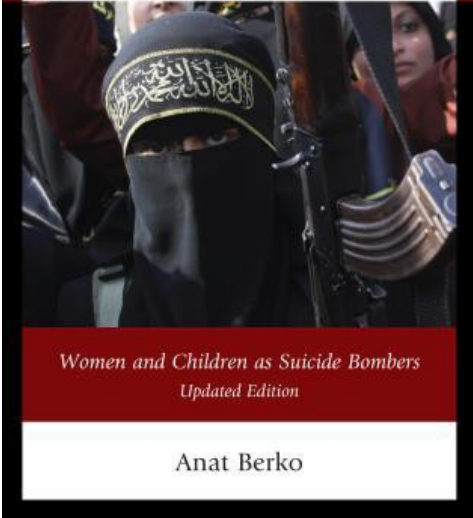


The Smarter Bomb



ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD

THE SMARTER BOMB

Women and Children as Suicide Bombers, Updated Edition

By Anat Berko

About the book

This compelling book offers a unique glimpse into the motivations of suicide bombers, especially women and children, and those who recruit and dispatch them. As a woman and a mother, Anat Berko was able to win the trust of imprisoned bombers and speak with them intimately. Entering Israel's most heavily secured cells, she met with female and adolescent would-be suicide bombers and their dispatchers, lawyers, and interrogators. The personal stories are greatly enriched by the inclusion of the sketches and letters many prisoners gave to the author. She explores vital questions surrounding the forces that lead individuals to place explosives on their bodies, kill and injure scores of civilians, and take their own lives. The answers offer a rare and candid portrayal that will be essential reading for all those wanting to understand the interior world of suicide bombers and how to communicate with terrorists.

The author

Anat Berko holds a Ph.D. in criminology and served as lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces. She is a research fellow at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya and also conducts research for the National Security Council. She is a visiting professor at George Washington University.

Praise for the book

"Dr. Berko's chilling analysis of the phenomenon of Palestinian women and children forced by societal factors to become suicide bombers, for lack of any other options, makes for riveting reading." — **Dr. Henry A. Kissinger**

"As terrorists employ increasingly brutal tactics, we must improve our efforts to understand and defeat them. Anat Berko has made a significant contribution toward that end by providing insight into one of the cruelest terrorist attacks—the use of women and children as suicide bombers." — **Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel**

"In an era when Islamism, both violent and nonviolent, has become the world's foremost disruptor of democracies, theocracies, and ungoverned territories, Anat Berko's *The Smarter Bomb* is essential for understanding Islamist martyrdom ideologies—from the recruitment of suicide operatives and the role of handlers to the reaction of Islamic societies to both these acts and those who carry them out. More than any other analysis available today, Dr. Berko's scholarship provides insight into the significant role female operatives, recruiters, and handlers are playing today. As a scholar and expert on Islamism, Berko presents an unparalleled source of insights guiding my own understandings of Islamism as it challenges my great faith of Islam." — **Qanta Ahmed, MD, State University of New York**

2016 • 222 pages

978-1-4422-1953-3 • Paperback list price \$29.00

978-1-4422-7859-2 • eBook list price \$27.50