Female Terrorism and Militancy
Agency, utility, and organization

Edited by Cindy D. Ness
Contents

Notes on contributors ix
Acknowledgments xiv

Introduction 1
CINDY D. NESS

1 In the name of the cause: women's work in secular and religious terrorism 11
CINDY D. NESS

2 Women fighting in jihad? 37
DAVID COOK

3 Beyond the bombings: analyzing female suicide bombers 49
DEBRA ZEDALIS

4 (Gendered) war 69
CAROLYN NORDSTROM

5 The evolving participation of Muslim women in Palestine, Chechnya, and the global jihadi movement 84
KARLA CUNNINGHAM

6 Black widows and beyond: understanding the motivations and life trajectories of Chechen female terrorists 100
ANNE SPECKHARD AND KHAPTA AKHMEDOVA
7 The black widows: Chechen women join the fight for independence – and Allah 122
ANNE NIVAT

8 Palestinian female suicide bombers: virtuous heroines or damaged goods? 131
YORAM SCHWEITZER

9 Martyrs or murderers? Victims or victimizers? The voices of would-be Palestinian female suicide bombers 146
ANAT BERKO AND EDNA EREZ

10 Girls as “weapons of terror” in Northern Uganda and Sierra Leonean armed groups 167
SUSAN MCKAY

11 From freedom birds to water buffaloes: women terrorists in Asia 183
MARGARET GONZALEZ-PEREZ

12 Women and organized racial terrorism in the United States 201
KATHLEEN M. BLEE

13 The portrayal of female terrorists in the media: similar framing patterns in the news coverage of women in politics and in terrorism 217
BRIGITTE L. NACOS

Index 236