

# Letter to the Editor: Terrorism — Why Turkey?

## To the Editor:

Over the past few weeks, we have had the opportunity to talk to members of the Law School community about the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul. All of our friends and family members are safe and well. Many thanks to everyone who expressed their concerns and sympathies — your support is very much appreciated. The reactions we encountered centered around a single question: “Why Turkey?” It is the same question Turks have asked as well. We have had our fair share of terrorism over the decades, but the manner in which these attacks were carried out is entirely new to the Turkish people, reminiscent of September 11. The first of the twin attacks in Istanbul was on two synagogues on November 15. The second set came on November 20, targeting the British Consulate and the Turkish headquarters of the London-based HSBC bank, in all killing over 50 people and wounding hundreds. Looking at the immediate targets, some commentators have suggested that the attacks were directed at Jews (and in turn Israel) and the U.K. and that Turkey

was simply a proxy. Nothing could be further away from the truth.

Upon reflection, Turks and informed observers know the answer to the question “Why Turkey?”: The attacks target the functioning of a Western-style democracy in a predominantly Muslim country. These terrorists believe that by inflicting fear into the population, they can destabilize and eventually overthrow the democratic system. The Turkish model stands against everything that the terrorists believe in. While its population is predominantly Muslim, Turkey has been a republic since 1923 and constitutionally secular since 1928; it gave its women the right to vote in 1930 and is the most liberal democracy in the Muslim world. Turkey also infuriates the likes of Bin Ladin because it has strong economic, political, and military ties with Israel. Furthermore, unlike its European allies, there is no history of anti-Semitism in Turkey, where hundreds of thousands of Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition found refuge in 1492 and a second wave of immigrants was welcomed during World War II. Turkey is also a member of NATO and seeks Euro-

pean Union membership. In short, Turkey is the model of modernity for 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide. It is a model that proves there is no inherent conflict between Islam and a Western-style democracy. It is this model that the Bin Ladins of the world want to see fail.

Turkey is where the East and the West meet geographically and culturally, where both live in harmony. So is Istanbul. “What did they do to my beautiful city?” cried one too many people captured by TV cameras. Istanbul is a symbolic target for terrorists. It is a city where centuries-old mosques, churches, and synagogues stand side by side against a backdrop of 60-story skyscrapers. It is a city where you can roll out of a club in your tank top as the call to morning prayer is heard from the minarets of the neighboring mosque. It is the diversity, modernity, and the freedom of our beautiful city and country that terrorists want to destroy.

Will they succeed? Absolutely not. Turkey and Istanbul remain very safe for their inhabitants and visitors. The already-robust Turkish security apparatus will quickly adapt itself to effectively deal with

this new type of terrorism. As far as Turkish secularism and democracy are concerned, fear not. The Turkish people have enjoyed both for too long to let them go. But we need help. Similar to September 11, the threat comes from a vast and highly organized global network of terrorists. It has been established that the people who carried out the attacks received their training in terrorist camps around the Middle East and Afghanistan and funding from international terrorist groups.

Turkey needs cooperation from all countries of the free world, especially the European Union. The E.U., just weeks before the attacks, refused to place the terrorist group that claimed responsibility for the bombings on their terrorist list due to “human rights” concerns, whereas the same list names several non-violent organizations in Europe. If we want democracy and human rights in the Middle East and the Muslim world, as well as security around the globe, the civilized world needs to help Turkey’s efforts to become a model for those countries.

Eda Cerrahoglu '05

Suzan Sandikcioglu '05

Kerem Turunc '05

## Faculty Quotes

**J. Harrison:** “What the court does here is open door number three, and it’s saying, ‘behind door number three is a goat, so you go to jail.’ They are telling people that the goat was always there, and now they’re just opening the door and showing it to us.”

**A. Coughlin:** “She gets on the stand and says she said no, and he gets on the stand and says they’re passionate murmuring nos.”

Student: “How does that sound?”

**A. Coughlin:** “Everyone watches pornography — I heard it on Fox News — so I’m not going to go there.”

**J. Harrison:** “Baseball players make a lot of money each year. Manny Ramirez — this guy makes \$20 million a year. He is a tremendous offensive player. But he is an example of one of those \$50 million airports with a \$50 control tower.”

**A. Coughlin:** “Defense attorneys in white-collar cases are going to go out and try to find witnesses and immediately get them to sign an affidavit. You want to nail the story down so that when the government gets to them, you have their story first. When I did this work, I was pregnant with my daughter. The witnesses would come in and go, ‘ohhh...the poor pregnant woman.’ Those people would just sign anything.”

**J. Jeffries:** “Let me tell you what RICO basically says: ‘You are guilty, and you are going to jail FOREVER.’”

**G. Lilly:** “So the witness responds that he had never seen cocaine except on TV commercials... I guess he’s been watching some channels I haven’t found yet.”

**J. O’Connell:** “I was told once that the way to clear out an audience and have them running for the doors is to mention one of two topics to them: 1) Canada 2) Worker’s Compensation. I was painfully aware of this a few years ago when I went to speak about Canadian worker’s compensation. I was nearly trampled to death.”

**J. Manning:** “You just need to say the word ‘Chevette’ and people laugh. That’s partly why I like this case.”

# “Santa Goes Sadistic” and Other Holiday Tales

Christmas is a time when you find out just how sadistic your parents are. Take, for example, Christmas sweaters. Mom always bought me one. I was that kid wearing the sweater with teddy bears, the one that jingled because giant bells were attached. You remember that kid. You pegged me with the dodgeball.

But this Christmas, my parents have something else in mind. In the

throwing their firstborn child (me) to the wolves (my little cousins) and seeing how I survive. “Oh, it’s just a few hours,” Mom said.

Just a few hours. So were those BarBri videos. (Exam Question #1: Can Student A sue for lost sensation in both legs?)

But here’s the thing: I have enough cousins to fill a Toys-R-Us. They run around singing Rudolph songs and leave MicroMachines in my toilet. When they see me at the airport they scream and suck onto my legs like 70-pound leeches. And now I hold the sanctity of their childhoods in my hands. If I mess up, I will be stoned by Tonka trucks.

Don’t get me wrong. I love kids. I used to work at Disneyland, which has the highest kid density per square foot in the world, aside from that other Neverland (the Ranch). I sold glow-in-the-dark jewelry and light swords. (This was in high school, when I really had ambition.) We wore 50 pounds of frozen glow necklaces and had to sell them all before we got frostbite. Every night we looked like we either had neck rashes or had made out with Stephen Tyler. But the kids would go wild. It was like being some radioactive Pied Piper — so many swarmed around you, you had to

beat them off with plastic Star Wars sabers.

These cousins are cute, and I have all 83 wallet shots to prove it. My parents actually think I’m getting off easy with the Santa job. I never, ever help with Christmas dinner. Dad taught me how to cook, which means I mac-and-cheese it like a bachelor. (I can also make Ramen using my car’s cigarette lighter. If I am ever trapped in the middle of a freezing blizzard or L.A. traffic, I will survive, thanks to my Dad.)

But deep down, I’m worried.

To be a real Santa, you need a heart of gold. You’ve got to be like my friend, Eric\*. Eric, who is so modest I had to give him a pseudonym, donated his car to a charity for sick children. Eric’s car also doesn’t work. It was rejected by the junkyard. It killed two transmissions and once dumped him between here and N.Y.C., so he had to Windex people’s windshields to get rides back.

But my point is that the holiday spirit is alive. There are plenty of Santas and Erics out there, people with kind souls who fly from house to house all endless night without even a spiked eggnog to keep warm, or who give away large scraps of

metal for the betterment of humankind.

Me? I get cranky standing in long lines.

I’m more like the Grinch. Yes, he could be nasty. Bagging all the gifts like that. (Imagine if the Law School woke up on Christmas morn’ and all the pink polo shirts were gone? That’s what I thought.)

But you gotta feel for the Grinch. Isolated up in that cave. Forced to listen to all the Who villagers sing and eat giant hams and not invite him. And the green shag rug he wore? Christmas sweater.

But the Grinch turned out to be a good guy. Deep down, I think Dr. Seuss and Universal Studios were saying it’s more about the holiday spirit than anything else. It’s about the tinsel and corny music and seven-foot candy canes and mistletoe and plastic lawn deer and giving a little something back to those who love you. And I gotta admit, I’m a sucker for that kind of stuff. So sign me up, I’ll be Santa. Hey, even Eric’s good deed paid off. His family sent him a car. It’s a 1984 Pontiac.

If you’re feeling saintly, drive to where 29N meets 66. He’ll Windex your windows when you get there.



**Irene Noguchi, a first-year law student, is a Law Weekly columnist.**

holiday spirit — and since natural selection didn’t knock me off on the playground — they want me to help with the most time-honored tradition of all: They want me to be Santa.

Turns out all the adults are going to some over-45-and-act-25 party. I am not invited. I will be left at home with a truckload of Barbies and wrapping paper. (Grandpa will also be here, but Grandpa also chain-smokes and is not allowed near the tree.) So it’s my duty to make sure the deed gets done.

In short, my parents are handing me to the firing squad. They are

# SBA Notebook: Holiday Cheer, Mr. Bond

Since this time last year, I have fantasized about bursting into the library the night before the initial first-year exam singing, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as joyfully as I can at the top of my lungs. I hatched the plan first year but did not discuss it until last year. I don’t think I have ever seen Sarah Hobeika as excited as when I told her about it. If there had been a booster club for the “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” plan, she would have been president. I will always appreciate her support.



**Sarah Baker, a third-year law student, is SBA president.**

Anyway, after telling folks about it, a few took it upon themselves to start a collection to pay me to do it. I was getting all geared up, and just when I was feeling mentally prepared, the money got diverted to the Ed Maginnis scurvy fund. Apparently, going a few months without Vitamin C goes for a lot more on the Law School black market than pub-

lic humiliation. This year, hopefully Ed can forget about becoming a sailor and I can finally live out my dream.

I do love the holiday season. Things are sparkly and when you go to the doctor to get the flu vaccine, the nurses are wearing Santa hats. I went to the Elson Student Health Center today. I love it there. Seriously, I do. When I was at Rutgers, students went to Hurtado Health Center and it was terrible. About the only thing that was good about growing up a mile away from where I went to college was that I had my own doctors in the area, so I never had to go to Hurtado. I heard many horror stories. It is in places like that that people go to get their tonsils out and emerge with an appendectomy. And to make things even worse, a bunch of the Rutgers pharmacy students interned there and used to look through the files and tell their friends who had what diseases. Now, I don’t know anything about whether there is a professional responsibility equivalent in pharmacy school, but I know that that sort of behavior wouldn’t fly for a lawyer. Professor Balnave has

taught me better. Anyway, Elson is great. Aside from not worrying that pharmacy students will tell others about my medical history, I feel like I am in good hands there. I suggest that everyone go to Elson and get a **flu vaccination**. They are free if you are on the U.Va. Insurance Plan. I heard on the Richmond news last night that the hospitals in Fredericksburg are filled to capacity with people with the flu. If you are going to get the vaccination, you should go soon, because what with its arrival in Fredericksburg, the flu is knocking on our doors and the vaccination takes two weeks to kick in.

Anyway, once you go get your vaccine, you should swing by Main Grounds for a couple of great events going on tonight and tomorrow night. Tonight, Friday, Dec. 5, at 9:30 p.m. the **Virginia Gentlemen** will be performing their annual **Holiday Concert** at Old Cabell Hall, which is on the end of the Lawn opposite the Rotunda. Also, the **Virginia Glee Club** will be holding its **Holiday Concerts** tonight, Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., as well as tomorrow, Saturday, Dec. 6

at 7 and 9 p.m., also at Old Cabell. You can reserve tickets over the phone by calling the Box Office right now at 924-3984 or just go on over tonight and hope that they are not sold out. Tickets for both concerts are only \$5.00. How often does good cheer come that cheap — especially around exams? I went to the Glee

Club and Virginia Gentlemen Holiday Concerts both first and second years and they really do make for great study breaks before exams. Whether you do go or not, enjoy the rest of your semester, good luck on finals, and have a great break. After all, it is the most wonderful time of the year.

# Students Show Their Soul

by Gretchen Agee '04

On Thursday, Nov. 20, the Law School showed its Soul in the Black Law Student Association’s new talent extravaganza. Before the show, audience members weaved through art created by law students, including third-years Tiger Wells and A.J. Fershleiser, and second-year Laurence Grimaldi. Third-year Nicole Davis and Professor Jody Kraus hosted the live program, while third-year Jay Levin deejayed. Two students performed original spoken-word poetry: third-year Karen Francis and first-year Adria Bullock. Others added vocal talents, including third-year Summer Scott, who sang gospel music; second-year Tim Clinton, and third-year Brian

Green — who also displayed his art. Two LL.M. students taking the stage were Jonathan Ooi on piano and David Yang, singing in Spanish and English. Two group acts also played: Portrait of Another, featuring second-year Alex Mejias, and Becky What’s Her Face, featuring Adam Greene, Scott Colton, Chris Termini, John Hyman, and “Kush.” Beyond hosting, Professor Kraus reprised his rendition of “Amazing Grace” on saxophone. The audience appreciated the unique talents on display; third-year Maruti Racherla said, “In class, we get to see one side of our classmates, but this was a wonderful opportunity to see a different side of them. I was really impressed!”