

## Tekst 2

### Diary

## When is a terrorist not a terrorist?



I'M GLAD TO hear that at least one newspaper editor, Max Hastings, has banned the use of the expression 'war on terrorism' from his pages. Elsewhere you will find it plastered on almost every page

of your favoured paper.

If journalists have any purpose in life it ought to be to try to distinguish propaganda from the truth. In this case 'war against terrorism' is a propaganda slogan promoted by governments, which on close analysis will be found to be meaningless.

War is something that can only be waged between countries. But it is the word 'terrorism' which causes most difficulty. Nor is there anything new about this. News agencies, the BBC and editors have for years been agonising about what to call those people who engage in bombings, kidnappings and assassinations. There was never any clear rule, but what it

usually boiled down to was that those thought to be 'on our side' or at least to have a good cause were likely to be called 'guerrillas' or 'freedom-fighters', while the rest were terrorists. The BBC, for example, would call the IRA terrorists but not the ANC in South Africa - even though they were engaged in exactly the same kind of operation.

During the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, groups like those of bin Laden who engaged in murderous attacks often on civilian targets were usually described by our media as guerrillas or freedom-fighters. It is only now that they have directed hostilities at the USA and its allies that they are 'terrorists'.

The results of these double standards have been to render the word virtually meaningless, one that is useful only for propaganda purposes. Or, as that battle-hardened journalist Robert Fisk put it in his book *Pity the Nation* more than a decade ago: 'Terrorism no longer means terrorism. It is not a definition, it is a political contrivance. "Terrorists" are those who use violence against the side that is using the word.'

*The Observer*

## ■ Tekst 2 When is a terrorist not a terrorist?

- “When is a terrorist not a terrorist?” (heading text 2)
- 1p **2** ■ Which of the following answers the question in the heading, judging from the text?
- A** When he achieves his goal without unnecessary violence.
  - B** When he fights for what is perceived to be a legitimate cause.
  - C** When he fights without regard for his own safety.
  - D** When he ultimately fights for the liberation of his country.