

Creating the perfect bogeyman - Part 2

If the third time does indeed prove to be the charm, then perhaps the infamous Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is really, really, really dead.

He's been dead before, injured before, captured before, but each time he magically managed to escape demise or detention.

This phenomenon is, no doubt, the result of sloppy work by our government's psychological operations droogies—whose job it is to keep the hatred stoked toward the Arab nations and Muslim peoples—though they might have you believe that al-Zarqawi possesses supernatural powers or an overabundance of luck.

In true Orwellian fashion, whenever the psy op droogies fathom that Americans are wearying from Middle East fighting and intrigues, they bring out one of their several bogeymen and plaster his image all over the mainstream media.

At any one time we have been inundated with photos, mysterious video and cryptic audio of Osama bin Laden—the ultimate bogeyman—or al-Zarqawi, Moussoui, Padilla, or Saddam, the former ultimate bogeyman whose status has apparently been reduced to that of eternal defendant, reminiscent of the fate that befell the late Slobodan Milosevic at The Hague.

Since our forces can't somehow find bin Laden, and Saddam is in the jug, al-Zarqawi had to be made the No. 1 bogeyman to fill in for a while.

The Washington Post reported last April that the “U.S. military is conducting a propaganda campaign to magnify the role of the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, according to internal military documents and officers familiar with the program. The effort has raised his profile in a way that some military intelligence officials believe may have overstated his importance and helped the Bush administration tie the war to the organization responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. . . .

“For the past two years, U.S. military leaders have been using Iraqi media and other outlets in Baghdad to publicize Zarqawi's role in the insurgency.”

This is also a classic example of how the psy op droogies work: creating the images and misinformation for the purpose of mass manipulation of the audience.

Sometimes they do screw up or, frankly, they may simply recycle stuff because they believe—perhaps rightly so—that none of us are paying attention, or that our memories can't reach back farther than a month.

So, as a reminder, let's look at an earlier instance in which the psy op droogies recycled a bogeyman.

A few years ago Khalid Shaikh Mohammed was resurrected. Mohammed was described as the purported mastermind of the 9-11 attacks.

Mohammed was the Mastermind of the 9-11 attacks? Wasn't bin Laden the supposed mastermind? And wasn't Saddam accused of being somewhat the same thing?

On Oct., 30, 2002, the *Asian Times* reported that: “Now it has emerged that Kuwaiti national Khalid Shaikh Mohammed did indeed perish in the raid, but his wife and child were taken from the apartment and handed over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in whose hands they remain. . . .

“The FBI, still keen to take Shaikh Mohammed alive, teargassed the area, and a number of people were captured. However, despite instructions to the contrary, a few Pakistan Rangers entered the flat, where they found Shaikh Mohammed and another man, allegedly with their hands up. The Rangers nevertheless opened fire on the pair.”

However, on March 2, 2003, *The New York Times* reported: “Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, suspected of planning the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington and one of the F.B.I.'s most wanted terrorists, was detained by Pakistani authorities this morning and is now in American custody, officials said. . . .

“In Washington today, the White House issued a statement praising Pakistani and American officials for what it called a joint operation in capturing Mr. Mohammed.”

And, now, back to that resilient al-Zarqawi.

Associated Press reported on March 4, 2004, that al-Zarqawi “was killed in the Sulaimaniyah mountains of northern Iraq ‘during the American bombing there,’ according to a statement circulated in Fallujah this week and signed by the ‘Leadership of the Allahu Akbar Mujahedeen.’”

The *Jerusalem Post* reported on Nov. 20, 2005, that al-Zarqawi, “the head of the al-Qaida in Iraq terror group, may have been killed in Iraq on Sunday afternoon when eight terrorists blew themselves up in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.”

Well, at least the *Post* stated: “may have been killed.”

On June 3, 2005, the Saudi on-line newspaper *Al-Medina* reported that al-Zarqawi “died on Friday and his body is in Fallujah's cemetery. . . .

“During a telephone conversation from the city of Fallujah with the Saudi newspaper, Nasir said al-Zarqawi was taken there after being injured in the city of Ramadi around three weeks ago, and may have been treated by two doctors who had worked with his aides in Baghdad. He said the two doctors had stopped a serious hemorrhage in al-Zarqawi's intestines, but that after his condition worsened last week, the militant died on Friday.”

Now, finally, al-Zarqawi is dead. And he probably he is. And he may have been dead for some time. We have no choice but to take the government's word for it. And that's little comfort.

Think for a moment about the old saw that the first casualty of war is the truth. If you consider the Mohammed and al-Zarqawi examples in light of that saying, it's not a stretch to believe that the information we are getting is shaped, not by truth, but by propaganda designed for one purpose: to keep the American people feeding the war machine.

Addressing the use of bogeymen to manipulate the masses, Paul Joseph Watson, a U.K. researcher, wrote on the website <http://www.prisonplanet.com> that “the al-Zarqawi image, whether the real al-Zarqawi was alive, dead or rotting away at Guantanamo Bay, was carefully controlled and massaged by the U.S. military-industrial complex all along.”

Watson reasons that the time had come for “the Pentagon to jettison their creation and throw a few much needed approval points Bush's way.”

Watson stated that “the feverish Neo-Con cheerleaders will pick the flesh off this for the next 6 months at least, highlighting it as a benchmark of the success of the war on Iraq. . . .

“This development also increases that likelihood that the (also deceased) CIA pawn Osama bin Laden will be rolled out before the mid-term elections as the ever prevalent October surprise.”

Next we'll take a look at that very bin Laden, a CIA asset and currently America's chief bogeyman.