



ALLIED: MONTHLY BULLETIN ISSUED BY IMCTC

## IMCTC SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND IRAQI MILITARY ATTACHÉ



**The IMCTC** Acting Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, welcomed H.E. Lulzim Mjeku, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday, 9 March 2021, and the Military Attaché of the Republic of Iraq to KSA, Brig. Gen. Dawood Abdulkareem Mahdi, and the accompanying delegations on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at the IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh. During the two meetings, the parties discussed the avenues of joint cooperation between IMCTC and the Republic of Kosovo, and Iraq.

Both guests were briefed on IMCTC counterterrorism efforts across the four domains (Ideology, Communications, Counter-Terrorist Financing and Military) and its role in coordinating and multiplying member countries' efforts.

Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi stated that IMCTC represents a significant entity that seeks to strengthen counter terrorism cooperation among its member countries. Based on the values of legitimacy, independence, coordination and participation, IMCTC strives to ensure that all counterterrorism actions and efforts made by its member countries are aligned with international regulations, norms and laws. 🌸

## IMCTC BIDS FAREWELL TO THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN'S DELEGATES



**On** Tuesday, March 16, 2021, IMCTC bid farewell to the Sudan's delegates: Brig. Gen. Siralkhtim Alamin Aldasogi Osman, Brig. Gen. Musa Omer Saeed and Brig. Gen. Nasir Elhassan Nasir Ali as they conclude their term of office, wishing them continued success, while IMCTC received new Sudanese delegates in return. 🌸



# “INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION IN VIOLENT EXTREMISM PREVENTION PROGRAM”



**IMCTC** held a presentation entitled “Institutional Integration in Violent Extremism Prevention Programs” on March 1, 2021, at its headquarters in Riyadh, which was presented by Dr. Mohammed bin Humaid Al-Tagafy, chairman of the Global Experience Center for Studies, Consultation and Training. In the presentation, Dr. Al-Tagafy highlighted some concepts such as fanaticism, extremism and terrorism. He also clarified what is meant by institutional integration and its importance in countering and preventing extremism.

## Analysis of concepts

Dr. Al-Tagafy started the presentation with an analysis of concepts related to violent extremism. He addressed the concept of fanaticism defining it as “negative attitudes towards individuals who belong to a certain organization that is based on a religious, political or class grounds. This definition applies fully to extremism.

As for terrorism, it can be defined as “Criminal activities carried out by an individual, group or organization with extremist tendencies against people, places or transportation, using modern equipment and methods that ensure the execution of the crime with the utmost degree of destruction and intimidation in order to achieve political or ideological goals”. Extremists claim that there are reasons behind their activities. However, terrorist crimes are committed with violence and threats. They are characterized by spreading horror among victims, carefully selecting victims and places, using modern deadly weaponry and explosives, using the latest technology of communication and media, financing, recruiting and working on achieving political agenda.

As for institutional integration, it means “a number of official and local institutions that work on planned and common efforts to prevent criminal activities committed by extremist terrorist organizations.”

As for the prevention of violent extremism, it means “the strategic planning to develop institutional and individual efforts that aim to prevent and counter violent extremism.”

## Complex phenomenon

Dr. Al-Tagafy pointed out that violent extremism is one of the most complicated social phenomena on the local, regional and global levels, because its spread means a destruction of people’s lives and their sustainable development. What makes the situation even worse is the use of modern technology by extremist and terrorist organizations. Despite the international cooperation to fight violent extremism, some relevant crimes still happen in some countries from time to time.

Preventing extremism has become the basis of countering terrorism. States, institutions and organizations are working hard to develop initiatives and activities that meet this goal, using their experience on the national, regional and global levels. Because violent extremism is an international phenomenon, individual efforts are not enough, and institutional integration has become a must as a counter measure.

The public and societies are partners in countering violent extremism. States need to develop community-oriented initiatives that respond to local circumstances and depend on partnerships between governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, and economic and media institutions.

The presenter outlined some variables that also **justify integration**:

- ▶ The development of recruitment methods by extremist and terrorist organizations.
- ▶ The modest results of non-integrative efforts to counter violent extremism.
- ▶ The consistency of the programs with international policies to counter extremism.
- ▶ The weak contribution of local institutions to countering and preventing extremism.
- ▶ Recurrence of criminal activities resulting from violent extremism.

- ▶ The presenter also reviewed the **pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, which are:
- ▶ Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
- ▶ Measures to prevent and combat terrorism
- ▶ Measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard
- ▶ Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

The action plan of this strategy developed four measures necessary to meet these pillars, such as the measures of preventing extremism by promoting peace, justice, human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance, respecting for all religions, beliefs and cultures, and developing educational and awareness-raising programs that cover all sectors of society.

Within this strategy, the UN launched a Virtual Counterterrorism Week, themed "Strategic and Practical Challenges to Counter Terrorism in A Global Epidemiological Environment", which lasted from 6 to 10 July 2020. It included nine seminars devoted to the priorities of counterterrorism, including initiatives led by youth to build tolerant societies, and stressing the importance of the media in preventing violent extremism.

### Variety of programs

Dr. Al-Thagafy presented rehabilitation programs to prevent violent extremism, including:

- ▶ Training on relevant knowledge and skills.
- ▶ Awareness campaigns of the required tasks.
- ▶ The use of television and other modern media
- ▶ The use of various types of arts.
- ▶ Making use of school curricula.
- ▶ Organizing games and competitions.
- ▶ Employing religious sermons.
- ▶ Employing scientific research to describe and foresee the phenomenon.
- ▶ Investing role models and influencers.

Despite the diversity of rehabilitation programs and countries developing them, they have in common, as studies suggested, some outcomes including:

- ▶ Emphasizing the importance of observing values when dealing with different violent extremists.
- ▶ Adopting a multi-disciplinary approach including (ideological, psychological, social and economic) fields in policies and programs that counter violent extremism.
- ▶ Countering the discourse of violent extremists, for it is not less important than countering violent acts, as it is essential for attracting more followers.
- ▶ The participation of different people of different professions in countering violent extremism, and not to depend only on governments, for the best solutions are often the local ones.
- ▶ The feasibility of programs and initiatives of a cooperated group of institutions, and those concerned with the impact of the family and finding a healthy social environment for the extremists, an alternative to what the extremists were allowing him.

These common points between different rehabilitation programs do not mean that one or some of them can be generalized to suit different countries and societies.

"It is clear that there cannot be an ideal model for what can be assumed from any of these programs. If the development of terrorism is a product of its time and place, the issues of de-radicalization will be linked to this context as well, in how developing and implementing programs," says Dr. John Horgan, professor of psychology at the University of Georgia and former director of the International Center for the Study of Terrorism, after conducting interviews with former members of more than a dozen extremist movements in the world, within the rehabilitation programs.

### Skills and outcomes

Dr. Al-Thagafy outlined two important types of skills that are required to achieve integration in preventing violent extremism:

**The first of which** is to early identify extremists using social, economic, psychological, and political indicators. **The second of which** is to hold dialogues with those expected to become extremists, enhance their self-confidence, understand them, ensure that their negative attitudes change into positive ones, occupy their time with responsibilities and hobbies, integrate them into friendships, and warn them of the fate of terrorists.

The presenter indicated that rehabilitation programs to prevent violent extremism are targeted to local communities, families, friends, educational institutions, masjids, work environments, police, prisons and aftercare institutions.

Dr. Al-Thagafy then outlined **the most important expected and sustainable outcomes** of the programs, which are:

- Providing the participants with the knowledge and thoughts that help them uncover the indicators of violent extremism.
- Participants' application of knowledge and skills required to early address extremist ideology.
- Participants' contribution to rejecting extremists' activities and warning them of the consequences.
- The adaptation of moderate ideology by extremists, and re-propagation of the trends they have adopted.
- Increasing voluntary actions and social initiatives.
- Reducing the rates of extremism and restoring normalcy

### No alternative to integration

Ending the presentation, Dr. Al-Thagafy asked: What if official and local institutions (family members, school and university members, community members, and masjid visitors) cooperate and integrate to prevent violent extremism?

If this happens, will we see our sons and brothers going into conflict areas? Will we see some of our children kill their relatives and security men?

The certain answer is (no). Therefore, efforts should be exerted to achieve this noble goal.

This proves the fact that it is essential for all segments of society to prevent extremism, starting with the family (mother and father together), through schools, religious establishment, and state institutions. They all should work together to refute extremist suspicions and criticize them through studies and research supported by religious, ideological and scientific evidence. In addition, working to spread moderate ideology, for prevention is better than cure. 🌸



## WORKSHOP IN IMCTC DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM



**Due to the increase of extremist groups and terrorist organizations all around the world, the ethnic, cultural, religious and national divisions among groups of people in many countries have increased to a degree of denying the humanity of people of other races, religions or sects, and canceling all their rights especially the right to life! Therefore, the violent extremism has escalated significantly and become a serious global challenge.**

### Monitoring and analyzing the phenomenon

National, regional and global studies and programs are addressing the phenomenon of violent extremism and terrorism. They monitor, track and analyze this phenomenon to be able to counter it and confront its effects.

A study by the well-known American "RAND Corporation" specialized in countering extremism concluded that the good and successful parts of de-radicalization programs should have the following features

The first feature: inclusion, awareness and comprehension.

The second feature: continuity, perseverance and permanence.

If these two features are worked on well, the ideology of violent extremism will be easy to overcome and it will be possible to neutralize its danger. It is worth mentioning that it is difficult to separate an individual from their violent extremism group because of their tight connection to its networks and relationships. Therefore, there must be a strategy that addresses such relationships, and works on overcoming them using multiple and extraordinary methods. Among the most important of these methods are the ideological treatment programs that refute the textual evidence on which the ideology of violent extremism is based. The rehabilitation and

reintegration programs have made encouraging progress in this respect, for they provide legal (sharia) evidence that refute violent extremism.

### Dismantling the extremist discourse

It is necessary to call for dismantling of extremist discourse by showing its weakness and fragility, and to call all groups of society, including the family (mother and father together), school, religious establishment, and statesmen to co-operate in the elimination of extremist ideology.

In this context, the Department of Ideology of the IMCTC held a workshop on March 3, 2021, entitled "Developments of Violent Extremism", attended by delegates of member countries who are specialists in ideology.

The workshop was opened by Maj. Gen. Muhammad bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, the Secretary-General of IMCTC, who welcomed the participants and called on them to present their suggestions and recommendations to achieve the goals of IMCTC in its four domains of action (communications, counter-terrorist financing, military and, especially, ideology). He commended the topic of this workshop, hoping that it would come up with useful results that would help IMCTC to achieve its goals and ambitions.

The workshop was directed by Dr. Mansour Al-Qarni, Director of the IMCTC Ideology Department. He started by introducing the Ideology Department that makes soft efforts to psychologically, ideologically, socially and culturally counter the ideology of violent extremism. It, furthermore, deals with other related issues including the development of preventive programs aimed at all groups of society and its activities, the development of rehabilitation programs, and the initiatives adopted in this field.



After that, the delegates of IMCTC member countries participated in the discussion, and shared their ideas. They addressed some ideological topics, such as the appropriate approach to highlight the positive side of countering terrorism, the impact of the family in protecting its members from violent extremism, confronting every extremist ideology and the risk of use of technology and social media by violent extremist groups and terrorist organizations to promote their ideas and beliefs, which makes it necessary to develop strategies to counter this matter. The discussion then extended to include training on identifying the factors of violent extremism, its indicators and methods of recruitment, and training on rehabilitation and re-integration programs.

Findings, suggestions and recommendations

The workshop on "Developments of Violent Extremism" and the discussion accompanied it yielded many results, suggestions and recommendations. The most important of which are:

1) Findings:

- ♦ All workshop participants expressed their satisfaction and interaction with the topics of discussion and visions.
- ♦ The workshop provided an opportunity for submitting proposals and recommendations, and presenting opinions and interventions.
- ♦ The comments and interventions of the participants, and the responses thereto enriched the topics of the workshop.
- ♦ The participants felt the IMCTC's desire to assume its responsibilities to achieve the goals for which it was established.

2) Suggestions:

- ♦ Paying more attention to ideology in countering extremism, which weakens extremism and its related issues.
- ♦ Training the trainers of the IMCTC countries to make them perfect in ideology when they return to their countries.
- ♦ Presenting a working paper or presentation to clarify some terminology of the concept of extremism and its relationship to terrorism.
- ♦ Dedicating a workshop to discuss the causes of violent extremism, including the political, economic, social and cultural causes.

3) Recommendations:

- ♦ Keeping on holding workshops on countering all forms of extremism. These workshops are important to share experience and present the developments in violent extremism in the IMCTC member countries, and their experiences and methods in countering it.
- ♦ Developing a calendar by the Ideology Department of workshops dealing with the important topics referred to by the participants. These suggestions and recommendations have been referred to the IMCTC's Ideology department to be studied and developed, with the help of the delegates of the IMCTC member states in the ideology domain. They would put the appropriate recommendations and suggestions under practical application according to their priority. 🌟





# GUERRILLA WARFARE

## PREFERRED BELLIGERENCE OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS



**History** has seen different phases of wars, manifested in a series of generations. The oldest version was known as the first-generation warfare, which is the traditional wars between two states and two regular armies. The first-generation warfare trudged through history from 1648, when the Westphalia Treaty in Germany was concluded, which established the beginning of the era of the sovereign state over its own territory, until 1960. The second-generation warfare followed, which is a guerrilla warfare between a regular army and armed groups. The third-generation warfare rose to prominence, termed by subject-matter experts as a pre-emptive or preventive warfare. The fourth-generation warfare became in circulation in 1989, which does not take place between two armies, nor is it a direct clash between countries; rather, the state uses all means and tools made available to weaken, exhaust and force the enemy to submit to its will.

### TERRORISTS AND GUERRILLA WARFARE

Terrorist organizations have been desperately following the guerrilla warfare method; while only DAESH went against such a method when it took control of swaths of the territory of Syria and Iraq in 2015, and it followed, instead, the traditional method of warfare. However, DAESH was soon defeated and the swaths of the territory it once controlled were all liberated. With this given situation, DAESH reused the guerrilla warfare method. DAESH also carried out many guerrilla warfare operations in Iraq in 2018, including bombings, roadside IEDs and assassinations of notables.

The deeply ingrained relationship between terrorists and guerrilla warfare was featured by an awareness symposium at the IMCTC Center in Riyadh, themed Guerrilla Warfare and Associated Relationship with Terrorism, that was held on Thursday, 11 March 2021, and was presented by Brigadier-General Yahya Mohammed

Asiri, Acting Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the IMCTC and Lieutenant Colonel Zaki Yahya Al-Rawahi, Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to the IMCTC.

At the outset, Brigadier General Asiri pointed out that almost each era must have seen groups fighting in such a manner contrary to the traditional methods of armies, recently termed Guerrilla Warfare, which is among several others a type of irregular war that has become a global phenomenon, and thus has locally, regionally and internationally become a threat to security, stability and peace.

### CLEAR MEANING OF THE TERM

Al-Rawahi further explained that Guerrilla Warfare means one of the parties to the fighting is engaged with irregular soldiers, who attack their enemy whenever a favorable opportunity arises and escape to a safe haven. As such, it is an unconventional war between groups with a single goal and an organized conventional army. These groups consist of relatively small combat units supported by fewer armaments and lesser traditional armies. More so, they follow a surprise-fighting method and avoid direct engagement due to unequal opportunities, while resorting to fighting small battles of carefully chosen locations and times to be more painful and destructive to the opponent. Too often, regular forces facing guerrilla warfare feel obliged to switch from their traditional methods of guerrilla warfare.

In the same vein, Al-Rawahi further clarified the differences between guerrilla warfare and wars that may look similar, such as civil war, popular resistance, revolution, insurrection and insurgency. Civil war is triggered between two groups or equal groups in one country, such as the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990). Popular resistance is spontaneous and unorganized defense that

people resort to in order to resist occupation or occupying army, such as the Algerian popular resistance to the French occupation (1830-1960). Therefore, revolution is a major political event that transforms a given situation in a country to raise the level of reality to the level of national hopes, such as the "Bolshevik" revolution that took place between 1917-1921.

Insurrection and insurgency are acts contrary to the law of the state, whether armed or unarmed.

## GUERRILLA ELEMENTS

Asiri reviewed the four elements of guerrilla warfare through the following points:

### 1) Strategy and key important principles:

- ◆ Operating with an ideological, political, or national organization.
- ◆ Avoiding military action.
- ◆ Seeking political settlement.
- ◆ Ensuring popular support.
- ◆ Gaining international support.

**2) Tactics**, which relates to the method of carrying out operations in various battles. In guerrilla warfare, it takes two main forms: ambush and raid. Its most important rules include:

- ◆ The goal is resistance, not victory.
- ◆ Always watching out for the enemy's siege.
- ◆ Relying completely on disguise by mixing with the local population.
- ◆ Fortifying the training and launch bases for defense purposes and possible abandoning when needed.
- ◆ Using small scattered stores for food and ammunition.
- ◆ Total secrecy in clandestine movements.
- ◆ Diversification of atypical attacks to surprise the enemy.
- ◆ Attacking the enemy while they are moving as it becomes easier to defeat it.
- ◆ Reliance on self-efforts and the spoils of successful operations.

**3) Scientific Progress:** groups in guerrilla warfare are keen to benefit from scientific advances, whether in communications or other fields.

**4) Planning:** employing the previous three elements at the appropriate time and place to achieve victory: goal, energy, method and status of the forces in the negotiations phase.

## ASPECTS OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Asiri discussed the strong guerrilla relationship with terrorist groups from ideological, informational, financial and military aspects. Terrorist groups realize that a human being is a rational, social being ideologically influenced by and influences those around; one should have an ideological drive to make one's decisions, especially fateful decisions, and this is why they keenly have influential leaders that attract others through strong argument and rigorous leadership.

Human experiences indicate that groups start small and then snowball and balloon into reality. They spread among the target groups by employing influential media propaganda; they use resonating speeches that stimulate emotions and implement small operations to promote their delusional bravado to lure others.

Funding is the basis that connects groups to their goals of expansion and control. Therefore, such groups and organized crime gangs create relationships of common financial interests, with their different orientations and goals.

The means used by guerrilla warfare are among the best means of terrorist groups to ensure their survival and expansion and even influence the decisions of states.

Asiri cited examples of the relationship that holds terrorist groups across the four domains, indicating that DAESH has employed ideology by using its leaders for religious discourse, such as Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, and used the media, especially social media, and video games to communicate its principles, and obtained funding from smuggling and trafficking oil into Iraq and Syria, recruiting children and attacking government forces to obtain ammunition and weapons.

Boko Haram also used the religious discourse as an ideological support, and used the media available to promote itself, funded its activities by selling ivory, gold and diamonds and recruited children and attacked government forces to obtain ammunition and weapons.

Too, Al-Qaeda used religious speeches made by as Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri and other leaders who pledged allegiance to or supported it. Social media and video games to communicate its ideologies are also used, aided by the experiences of affiliated old warriors in Afghanistan.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Al-Rawahi concluded the symposium with an explanation of the lessons that regular military units could benefit from in their confrontation with terrorist organizations that use guerrilla warfare:

- ◆ Development of cutting-edge combat tactics for the forces against guerrilla warfare, in terms of training in various geographical environments.
- ◆ Analysis of the best areas of guerrilla warfare and terrorist group operations.
- ◆ Development of defensive and offensive joint operations plans against terrorist groups that follow guerrilla warfare.
- ◆ Realizing the best coordination between the military and security authorities in sharing information and operations directed at gangs and terrorist groups.
- ◆ Coordinating cooperation between the competent authorities in brotherly and friendly countries for counter-terrorism experiences.
- ◆ Development of rules of engagement during the building of military forces facing terrorist groups.
- ◆ Development of joint leadership for irregular wars, including guerrilla wars.

Asiri concluded that terrorist groups that adopt the guerrilla warfare method are running against the course of history, as they aim to destabilize international peace and security, and weaken the basis on which modern states were founded.

Aided by their evil-driven ideologies, such groups and organizations have opened Pandora's box, which require the affected countries and the United Nations to take firm measures against them, otherwise they are subject to accountability under international law. 🌸



## ISIS AND ASSOCIATED MEDIA DISSEMINATING TERRORIST MESSAGES



**ISIS** has a glaringly notorious and labyrinthine experience with media, with totally different bearing from other terrorist organizations; ISIS has infamously gone too far in media use as a form of jihad. Despite the defeat of ISIS and the liberation of the swaths of territory it once controlled allegedly as so-called caliphate, its virtual caliphate on the digital mazes is still seeking to shore itself up, while its detrimental messages are transmitted at all times.

The media apparatus of ISIS first appeared on social media platforms in 2012. By 2014, there were nearly 60,000 accounts on these platforms glorifying ISIS, or managed by ISIS supporters. In 2015, Twitter reported that it had blocked more than 125,000 accounts because such accounts showed sympathy with ISIS. In 2016, Twitter updated the blocked accounts, confirming that it had deleted more than 325,000 accounts!

The IMCTC Center headquartered in Riyadh reviewed this critically important issue in a roundtable discussion themed "ISIS and Associated Media in Communicating Criminal Messages," presented by Colonel Ali Mohammed Mahmoud, Delegate of the Kingdom of Bahrain to IMCTC, March 17, 2021; several key foci were discussed.

### DRUMMING UP FOR ESCHATOLOGY

Colonel Mahmoud described ISIS as one of the most snowballing and bloated terrorist organizations in the media, as it successfully lured a large number of loyalists and followers in a relatively short period, taking advantage of technical progress and an open media space. However, this success would not have been made possible without the combination of a number of factors that paved the way towards hypnotizing the minds of many misled and decoyed youth, regardless of their races and genders.

Colonel Mahmoud addressed the key elements of communication (sender, message, medium, receiver and reaction), and applied them to the media of ISIS, indicating that ISIS media goals (sender) are clear and can be identified in gaining the trust of the general public, and recruiting believers with the ISIS ideas, attracting supporters, defending ISIS, threatening and intimidating opponents,

drumming up for ISIS alleged victories and instilling terror in the hearts of opponents.

ISIS used media to drum up for its ideology that believes in the end of the world (eschatology), which it imported from the West, specifically from the American thinker Samuel Phillips Huntington, author *The Clash of Civilizations*, and the other American thinker, Francis Fukuyama, author of *The End of History*. It is about an ideological struggle between religions, especially Christianity and Islam.

A number of the ISIS ideologues were inspired by the idea of clash and conflict posited by the said two thinkers. With this in mind, Abu Bakr Naji published a book entitled *Management of Savagery*, which can be considered the combat ideology of ISIS. The other ideologue is Abu al-Mundhir al-Shanqiti, or (Goebbels of ISIS), who vehemently and fervently defended ISIS against its Muslim or non-Muslim enemies. Abu Al-Hasan Al-Muhajir is the ISIS jurist, renowned for his writings, showcased by *Issues in The Jurisprudence of Jihad*. Al-Azdi enshrined the permissibility of killing and maiming the bodies of the ISIS enemies, and Turki Al-Binali focused on responding to the allegation and suspicion of the ISIS departure from Islam and apostasy.

### HYPERMARKET NOT CLUB

Colonel Mahmoud noted that there is a message declared by ISIS, reflected in the Holy Quran (Repentance: 20-22): "Those who believed and migrated and fought for the sake of Allah with their wealth and themselves shall have the greatest degree by Allah, and they are truly the winners (20). Their Lord carries good news to them of mercy and content and paradise of ever-lasting blessings (21). They are immortalized in it forever, for Allah has a great reward". However, the message that the ISIS thinkers disclose is the need for killing, terrorizing and human liquidation to sow terror into the hearts of enemies and followers alike.

Before ISIS spreads its message, it was necessary for it to think about the philosophy of marketing; ISIS benefited from the blunders of Al-Qaeda, which considered itself an exclusive club for the



jihadi elites, and did not attract many followers and supporters, while ISIS adopted the marketing policy followed by (hypermartets); the followers vary in their desires, inclinations and ideological, emotional and psychological needs. With this in mind, ISIS has benefited from the digital revolution and the wide media space and associated methods, as an official spokesperson (a term ISIS adopted from Western media policy), feeding on literature and arts, such as poetry and songs, audiovisual materials and social media, attracting myriads of audience.

MEDIA OF ISIS

Colonel Mahmoud further analyzed the media created by ISIS to achieve its goals. It issued its first monthly magazine in both Arabic and English, July 5, 2014, which became ubiquitous across the swaths of territory it once controlled in Syria and Iraq, but it was discontinued in July 2016. It launched a new magazine in September 2016, which appeared after the death of the ISIS spokesman, Abu Mohammed Al-Adnani, and was published online in several languages, including English, French, German, Russian, Indonesian, Urdu and Uyghur, but it was also discontinued the following year, after Iraq announced the defeat of ISIS in western Nineveh.

After that it issued an official weekly newspaper first issued by the Central Information Bureau of ISIS in 2014 until now. It publishes local and international news, organizing operations, newspaper interviews and religious and educational topics.

In the audiovisual media, in 2014 ISIS launched a radio station, which broadcasts in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Turkish and Kurdish, and it was closed early last year 2020. ISIS also established a foundation in January 2014, which is specialized in producing chants and lectures; it has published more than 150 chants in Arabic so far. On May 4, 2016, the Al-Battar Foundation launched an Android application that allows users to listen to the chants of the Ajnad Foundation on their mobile phones.

ISIS established a news agency in August 2014, which is an official news agency for ISIS, specialized in breaking political and military news around the clock, and broadcasting video recordings of the ISIS battles and related matters. The news agency has an application that was first made available on Google store then deleted.

TARGET AUDIENCE

ISIS has adopted the methodology of identifying a breeding ground, akin to the environment of mushroom cultivation, which is a dark and cool moist environment, without the need for more care and attention. ISIS has made such a breeding ground conducive for small-age Sunni groups, with limited education across minorities and marginalized groups and a large number of girls who did not define their ideological and emotional identity.

Against a background of hypnotism, ISIS with its media strategy coming into play has fed on religion, while going wild disguised in terrorism and violence, snowballing into reality through a media world developed on a carefully planned philosophy and ideology, aided by financing and military action that adopted a guerrilla approach that achieves quick wins but not big wars.

Colonel Mahmoud also emphasized that the key questions about the war on terror are not only related to defeating ISIS; rather, with any future threat similar to or different from ISIS, and among the most important of these questions: What counter-messages should be adopted in the fight against violent extremist organizations? What are the best and most successful media outlets in this war? How can we protect the target audience from the impact of ISIS criminal messages?

CONCLUSION

Colonel Mahmoud reiterated that it is necessary to oppose the ISIS terrorist media with a community-based awareness that well communicates the true meaning of Islam and does not draw emotions towards detrimental interpretations that target Muslim youth. Several down-to-earth steps should be taken to ward off the threat of violent extremist organizations. This includes immunizing and protecting youth from violent extremist ideology with educational programs and entertaining materials with meaningful content, instilling the values of tolerance promoted by true Islam, combating religious, sectarian, ethnic and class division, and developing fair solutions to social problems, such as illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, achieving sustainable human development, depriving violent extremist groups of media space, warning of the threat of their messages, developing strategies and operational policies in the media to combat the terrorist and violent activities of terrorist organizations, to strip violent extremist ideologies from their spurious religious cloaks, while laying bare their true goals. 🌸



# DEVELOPMENTS IN COMBATING TERRORIST FINANCING



IMCTC held a workshop themed “Developments in Combating Terrorist Financing,” spearheaded by the IMCTC Secretary-General, Major-General Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, with the presence of delegates of the IMCTC member countries.

The said workshop was presented by Mr. Abdullah Abdul-Rahman Al-Mudaifer, Director of the Counter-Terrorist Financing Department at IMCTC. Al-Mudaifer explained the organizational structure and organizational structure of the Counter-Terrorist Financing Department, strategic goal, roles, responsibilities and associated initiatives. The floor was open for further discussion on the developments in combating terrorist financing.

## DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

Al-Mudaifer highlighted that the IMCTC Counter-Terrorist Financing Department is mandated and entrusted with relevant planning, coordination, training programs and activities in three main domains:

- Legislation Section: it is concerned with legislation and international standards for combating money laundering and combating terrorist financing.
- Operations Section: it is concerned with the feasibility of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing measures, and compliance with international recommendations.
- Risks Section: it is concerned with estimating and assessing the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing, and tracking down other related threats.

Al-Mudaifer also emphasized that the IMCTC Counter-Terrorist Financing Department is seeing to achieve the third strategic goal of IMCTC, which is developing feasible measures that enhance prevention and detection operations, and curbing terrorist financing operations. Equally important, it seeks to achieve this strategic goal by following a set of key measures:

- Signing partnerships with the concerned authorities in combating terrorist financing.

- Providing consultations to develop action procedures in counter financing of terrorism for the institutions of the wishing IMCTC member countries.
- Coordination of special training programs in the member countries wishing to enhance their capabilities in prevention, detection, reporting and information sharing.

## DEPARTMENT ROLES AND INITIATIVES

The roles of the IMCTC Counter-Terrorist Financing Department are best manifested in the following:

- Identifying the best methods and practices in combating terrorist financing;
- Supporting IMCTC in setting priorities, and contributing to the development and implementation of counter-terrorist financing initiatives;
- Supporting the IMCTC Center relevant departments and divisions, while improving the requirements for collecting relevant information;
- Raising awareness of international legislation and efforts in combating terrorist financing, and providing consultations to IMCTC;
- Training of specialists in combating terrorist financing;
- Engaging in developing the IMCTC strategy, by creating relevant inputs;
- Proposing programs, initiatives, studies and activities in combating terrorist financing, in coordination with the departments concerned;
- Proposing, developing and maintaining partnerships with organizations to combat terrorist financing to benefit from the partners' experiences, capabilities and potentials and support the IMCTC member countries' capabilities and operations in countering terrorist financing;
- Proposing new or revised capabilities to generate continued development of the IMCTC capabilities and expertise in combating terrorist financing.



The Department develops training programs for the competent authorities in the IMCTC member countries and coordinates them within the “Building Initiative”, provides consultations to the competent authorities in the IMCTC member countries within the “Expertise Initiative”, and develops a legal training program on combating terrorist financing within the “Guide Initiative”.

## NEEDS AND SUGGESTIONS

The proposed needs in combating terrorist financing were further discussed, and the delegates of the IMCTC member countries made several proposals:

Khaled Arab, Delegate of Afghanistan called for the need to pay attention to training; training should focus on the delegates of the IMCTC member countries, and those working in counter-terrorist financing agencies in the IMCTC member countries.

Brigadier-General Rashid Mohammed Al-Dhaheiri, Delegate of the UAE, made two proposals. First: giving IMCTC priority in support and assistance to the IMCTC member countries that have increased risks of terrorist financing or are blacklisted in financing terrorism to assist them with the IMCTC counterterrorism financing programs. Second: the establishment of a section in the Department of Combating Terrorist Financing at the IMCTC Center to coordinate with the IMCTC member countries.

Colonel Ali Mohammed Mahmoud, Delegate of Bahrain, made two proposals. First: The development of a quarterly report, which monitors and analyzes the activities of combating terrorist financing globally, presents best practices, and charts a course for the reality of combating terrorist financing, including an A-Z trajectory. Second: the development of a schedule for the training programs of IMCTC for the next year, which includes the areas of training and available opportunities. This will help the IMCTC member countries to send those who need training in these areas.

Simeon Nasiru Sharif, Delegate of Sierra Leone, stated that he had submitted a vision for an expanded project to combat terrorist financing to IMCTC, and called on the rest of the IMCTC member countries to interact with the project and provide feedback about it.

Brigadier-General Nawaf Nasser Al-Jutaili, Delegate of Kuwait, suggested that initiatives to combat terrorist financing developed by IMCTC be distributed to the delegates of the IMCTC member countries to enhance their capacities and abilities and better learn about opportunities to support and participate in them.

Brigadier-General Dr. Mustapha Ibrahim Ali Souissi, Delegate of Libya, suggested developing the relationship between the IMCTC Center and the delegates of the member countries after the end of their roles and their return to their respective home countries to benefit from the experience they have gained and to establish regional or local offices for IMCTC member countries that support the partnership between the two sides.

Secretary-General affirmed that IMCTC will attach a special attention to all proposals and these activities contribute to sharing experiences among the IMCTC member countries in combating terrorist financing.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN COMBATING TERRORIST FINANCING

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) held its 32 round meetings between 11 and 25 February 2021. FATF launched a number of projects and strategic initiatives, including:

1. Project to mitigate unintended consequences of FATF standards, which address four main areas:

- A. Financial exclusion; i.e., removing individuals from the formal financial system and denying them access to basic financial services.
- B. Restricting access to financial services.
- C. Suppression of the non-profit organization sector, by abandoning the implementation of the risk-based FATF approach.
- D. Threats to basic human rights arising from the misuse of FATF standards.

FATF will implement this project in two phases. First: research and engagement based on the expertise of the members of the global network of FATF, which has more than two hundred judicial authorities, and observers and external stakeholders. Second: providing solutions to prevent and mitigate unintended consequences.

## 2) IMPROVING RISK-BASED SUPERVISION

The FATF has approved new guidelines to help improve risk-based supervision. This means a transition from rule-based supervision to risk-based supervision, which takes time and may be difficult as the results of the mutual evaluations show; it requires a change in the supervisory culture, and those in charge of it need the appropriate authority, capabilities, resources and political and organizational support.

A risk-based approach will make supervisors' efforts to uncover and prevent financial flows, which fuel crime and terrorism - more meaningful. Detecting and preventing money laundering and terrorist financing is better than prosecuting those involved after the crime has occurred.

## 3) STRENGTHENING MEASURES TO PREVENT FINANCING SPREAD OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

FATF has approved new guidance on assessing and mitigating proliferation financing risks. These guidelines aim to clarify the implementation of FATF requirements, including how to develop a risk assessment in the context of proliferation financing, risk indicators for potential breach, lack of implementation, or evasion from proliferation financing sanctions obligations, and risk mitigation measures needed to address the risks identified, expected to be approved on June, 2021.

## 4) IMPROVING INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS RELATED TO TERRORIST FINANCING

The assessments highlighted that many countries have major weaknesses in investigating or prosecuting those who finance terrorism. The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution (2462) in 2019, called for a more meaningful investigation into terrorism financing cases.

FATF has finalized guidelines for developing best practices for national authorities to improve legal procedures towards terrorist financing. These guidelines include operations to disrupt terrorist financing.

## 5) ADDRESSING THE ILLICIT ARMS TRADE AND TERRORIST FINANCING

FATF continued to explore the links between the illicit arms trade and the financing of terrorism, and approved in its latest session a confidential report that would be available for use by government authorities, for awareness purposes. 🌸

## IMCTC, PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES INK JOINT COOPERATION PROGRAM



In the context of boosting mutual cooperation between the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) and Arab, Islamic and international organizations, institutions and centers, a joint cooperation program was signed, on Wednesday, 10 March 2021, between IMCTC, represented by the IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, and Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies, represented by Dr. Adel bin Hassan Al-Omrani, Director-General of Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies. Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi stressed that the signing of the cooperation program comes in the course of enhancing the strategic partnership between IMCTC and Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies, embodying the leading local, regional and international role both sides play in countering terrorism and violent extremism and promoting the research, scholarly and training joint vision between them. 🌸

## IMCTC MEMBER COUNTRIES DELEGATES AND PERSONNEL RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE



The IMCTC Center carried out a vaccination campaign at the IMCTC's headquarters in Riyadh on Tuesday, March 18, 2021, to protect IMCTC member countries delegates and personnel against COVID-19. 🌸