



# التحالف

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 49, March 2023

## JAPANESE DELEGATION VISITS IMCTC



A high-ranking delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Defense visited IMCTC on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Received by IMCTC Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, the delegation was briefed on the efforts and cooperation among IMCTC member, supporting and friendly countries. It was also briefed on the IMCTC's achievements in its four (ideology, communication, counterterrorism financing, and military) domains as well as the coordination of efforts in the context of counterterrorism.

The Japanese delegation expressed its admiration for the IMCTC capabilities and the services it has provided in the counterterrorism domain and the modern mechanisms adopted to keep pace with changes.

The visiting delegation appreciated the warm reception and approved IMCTC's continued efforts, wishing it continued success.

## Tunisian Ambassador Visits IMCTC



H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, Mr. Hisham Al-Fourati, visited IMCTC on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 where he was briefed on the IMCTC's efforts across the four domains and on its achievements in counterterrorism, along with its role in coordinating the great efforts made by the IMCTC member countries.

## Ambassador of Republic of Chad Visits IMCTC



On Thursday March 9, 2023, H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hassan Saleh Al-Qadam Al-Junaidi, visited IMCTC and was received by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi

Following the briefing session, H.E. stated that IMCTC represents an integrated system that seeks cooperation among the IMCTC member countries to counter terrorism and coordinate efforts across the four domains. H.E. stated that IMCTC's reliance on the values of legitimacy, independence, coordination and participation renders the counterterrorism actions and efforts of IMCTC member countries' compliant and aligned with international regulations, norms and laws. In the same vein, IMCTC Secretary-General highlighted that terrorism is a scourge that must be eradicated by all means and methods, and that the methods of dealing with terrorist groups are constantly changing with the advancement of modern means, and therefore we must eliminate whoever might provide them with any financing required to carry out their criminal plans. At the end of the visit, the IMCTC Secretary-General bid farewell to H.E. the Ambassador and the accompanying delegation.



## IMCTC Starts an Anti-Smoking Awareness Day

As part of the awareness and educational activities held by IMCTC, in coincidence with the World No-Tobacco Day, IMCTC organized various activities to introduce and learn about the dangers of smoking supported with facts and figures, in cooperation with the Anti-Smoking Program of the General Directorate of Health Affairs in Riyadh. The activities included a lecture themed FACTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT SMOKING delivered by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Nassif Al-Muqaddam, Head of Non-Communicable Diseases Section at Programs Department in Riyadh Health on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Dr. Al-Muqaddam began his presentation by defining tobacco as it belongs to the Solanaceae family with broad leaves, and water constitutes about 90% of the weight of the plant. As such, the cultivation of tobacco consumes a lot of water. Dr. Al-Muqaddam explained that historically, the American continent is home to tobacco, where the indigenous people (native Americans) knew the cultivation of tobacco in the American continent and used it in their religious rituals as a pain killer. When Christopher Columbus arrived in the American continent in 1492, the sailors brought tobacco with them upon their return to Europe, and there it spread to the Arab countries during the Western colonization of the Arab countries.

### ■ Tobacco Products and Forms

Tobacco leaves are dried and three different types of products are made from them. First, unburned tobacco, such as sniff, tobacco, and SWEIKA, all of which consist of tobacco leaves, which are chewed and kept in the mouth for a period of time, then spat out. By repeating this process, such a person becomes addicted to it. Second, burnt tobacco, such as cigarettes, hookahs, MEDWAKHS, cigars, and pipes. The third and last type is “electronic cigarette”.

Speaking about the environment, Dr. Al-Muqaddam explained that tobacco poisons our planet and threatens the environment according to the statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO), as 600 million trees are cut down for the tobacco industry, 200,000 hectares of land are uprooted every year for the purpose of growing and drying tobacco, and 3.7 litres of water are used to manufacture one cigarette, bearing in mind that 6 trillion cigarettes are consumed annually, and 2 million tons of waste are used for tobacco packaging: annually about 1,820,000 tons of plastic waste of mineral water bottles and 38% of the total waste picked up from beaches and water ways around the world are actually caused by cigarette butts. Smoking may be one of the causes of wildfires.

Speaking about the causes of widespread smoking, Dr. Al-Muqaddam explained that the advertising and marketing campaigns

launched by tobacco companies have such a great impact, as tobacco companies spend daily about \$23 million on marketing. There are huge advertising and marketing campaigns launched by tobacco companies to target and attract young men and women to different types, whether traditional smoking or electronic cigarettes, all of which are harmful and unsafe and contain toxic and carcinogenic chemicals.

### ■ WHO Figures and Statistics

WHO classifies smoking as a global epidemic and a preventable chronic disease. Equally important, WHO estimates that there will be more than 8 million smoking-related deaths cases by 2030, an average of 10% of annual deaths worldwide. The peril of smoking is not limited to positive smokers, but extends to negative smokers, as it causes the death of 1.2 million people due to compulsive smoking; approximately, one person dies every 6 seconds. Smoking kills half of smokers (1 out of every 2 smokers).

Dr. Al-Muqaddam also touched on the components of a cigarette, stating that nicotine is a very toxic substance used to manufacture pesticides, and is a highly addictive substance. Nicotine causes heart contraction and stiffens human arteries (arteriosclerosis), which results in high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases, increasing the sticking of blood platelets and the occurrence of thrombosis and strokes in heart and brain.

Tar is also a toxic and carcinogenic substance since it contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals. It is a viscous oily substance that deposits in the alveoli, disrupts gas exchange, causes oxygen deficiency and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, weakens the immune system, and deposits in lips, teeth, and under nails to change their colour.

There is also carbon monoxide, which is a toxic gas that causes breathing difficulty and rapid heartbeat. It does not exist in the atmosphere and is caused by combustion only; it has a high ability to bind to haemoglobin in red blood cells, and thus reduces the ability of blood to carry oxygen.

Dr. Al-Muqaddam also talked about electronic cigarettes and explained that they are harmful to health and are unsafe. Users of electronic cigarettes are exposed to the burning and explosion effects of such electronic cigarettes; they are not a good means to quit smoking because of the nicotine solution dissolved in propylene glycol, a toxic substance used in automotive antifreeze, and also contains nanoparticles, flavours, volatile organic compounds, chemicals and heavy metals. Regarding the dependency on this cigarette, Dr. Al-Muqaddam explained that people believe it is a means



of quitting smoking and that it is less harmful. For this reason, they get addicted to it for the nicotine solution it contains. They even like it more because it is modern and stylish, comes in many forms and sizes, and is easy to carry.

#### ■ Hookah and Tobacco Paste

Hookahs are more dangerous than cigarettes, as tobacco paste contains nicotine and all the other harmful chemicals in cigarettes. The damage-related numbers were revealed as follows: volume of smoke: 50-100 times more; carbon monoxide gas in the blood: 3 times higher; carbon monoxide gas in exhaled air: 7 times higher; nicotine: 1.7 times higher; carcinogens: 40 times more; smoking a hookah piece in one session (20-80 minutes) is equivalent to smoking 100 cigarettes.

#### ■ MEDWAKH

The main ingredient of MEDWAKH is dried tobacco finely ground and mixed with herbs, spices, flowers and dried fruits. The MEDWAKH tobacco contains a very high percentage of nicotine and other chemicals found in tobacco. One dose of MEDWAKH is equivalent to 20 cigarettes consumed in two rounds of inhalation.

#### ■ Sniff

It is a burnt tobacco mixed with "atroun substance", earth, cement, salt, ash, henna and flour. It is given several names: SHAMMA, TONBAK, SWAIKA, and MADGHAH. One of its dangers is that it contains toxic nicotine that causes addiction, cardiovascular diseases and strokes, and many other mouth, gum and tooth diseases.

#### ■ Effect of Compulsive Smoking

Compulsive smoking is the inhalation of tobacco smoke that comes from other smokers. Passive smoking causes more than 600,000 deaths annually. WHO estimates that the figure will soar to 1.2 million by 2030.

#### ■ Effect of Compulsive Smoking on Women

Pre-pregnancy: Research studies have shown that compulsive smoking affects some hormones relating sexual activity, which leads to delayed pregnancy.

During pregnancy: Exposure of pregnant women to cigarette smoke leads to respiratory system infections and breathing difficulty. Compulsive smoking leads to a decrease in the weight of foetus on delivery.

#### ■ Effect of Compulsive Smoking on Children and Infants

Such effects include frequent respiratory infections, frequent colds, and frequent ear infections. It may cause asthma and allergies and may affect the child's sense of smell. Infants may find difficulty suckle and sleep, suffer from conjunctival redness and sudden infant death syndrome.

Regarding the smoking-diabetes relationship, Dr. Al-Muqaddam explained that smokers are 30-40% more likely to develop diabetes compared to non-smokers, because nicotine in tobacco generates insulin resistance in the body. Smoking also leads to high blood pressure as a result of the increased level of nicotine in the blood, which has a role in narrowing the arteries and blood vessels.

Dr. Al-Muqaddam stressed that smokers are more likely to be infected with COVID-19 simply because smoking leads to a decrease in the percentage of antioxidants in the cells lining the airways and reduces the efficiency of the respiratory system against viruses. Smoking also weakens immunity and increases the incidence of pneumonia.

Dr. Al-Muqaddam also talked about smoking and its relationship to anxiety and depression, explaining that mental disorders are more common among smokers. Smoking increases psychological problems, especially anxiety, depression and schizophrenia. Therefore, quitting smoking is associated with a drop in anxiety, depression and stress, in addition to mood improvement. He indicated that mental illness is an inhibitor to quit smoking, but the disease must be carefully monitored and treated during the smoking cessation period.

As for the deprivation from sport exercise and activity, Dr. Al-Muqaddam added that tar and carbon monoxide cause oxygen deficiency, which reduces energy production and impairs physical fitness and athletic performance.

#### ■ Smoking Effect on Stomach and Digestive System

Smoking leads to peptic ulcers, permanent acidity, and chronic intestinal diseases such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It also increases the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer; smoking reduces appetite and causes slimness.

#### ■ Smoking Effect on the Skin

Wrinkles and aging appear on the smoker's skin because smoking reduces the amount of blood flow to the skin due to its narrowness. Also, smoking reduces collagen production. Recent research studies have shown a relationship between smoking and acne and psoriasis. Smoking also affects the mouth, gums and tongue, resulting in gum infections, gum cancer, tongue cancer, dirty tongue, mouth spots and ulcers that develop into oral cancer and bad mouth smell. Smoking affects mouth salivary glands.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Al-Muqaddam reminded that smokers wishing to quit smoking should only call 937 for medical consultations on smoking prevention or book an appointment through "Mewid" application.

The event was accompanied by an exhibition with models and figures exhibiting harmful effects of smoking in different stages.



## HIS HONOR JUDGE AL-ALFI LECTURES ON CYBERCRIME AT IMCTC

As part of the lecture series held by IMCTC, an awareness lecture themed INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE CONFRONTATION WITH CYBERCRIME was delivered on Monday, March 6, 2023, by His Honor Judge Dr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Alfi, President of the Arab Association for Electronic Arbitration, former UN Committee expert on legal regulation of information space.

His Honor Judge Al-Alfi discussed cybercrime, legislation, threats and protection, and touched on cybercrimes of electronic extremism. He also talked about the information space regulation law and the interests covered by legal protection in the law of fighting information crimes.

His Honor Judge Al-Alfi first defined information crimes as “illegal fund-targeting acts carried out in networks or computers, such as bank-hacking and manipulating government budgets. They also target people by such acts as defamation and assault on the reputation and privacy of others; they also target information, such as attacking information infrastructure data of institutions.”

He also talked about the information space regulation law, which covers privacy, data circulation and consumer protection, intellectual property and digital commercial agencies, digital trade and contracts, electronic signature systems, electronic payment and electronic banking services, information crime and information security protection, digital log and its corroboration power.

In the first theme of his presentation, His Honor explained cybercrime (legislation, threats, protection), national legislation and information security protection, and the interests covered by legal protection (personal data, privacy).

Speaking about the nature of interest protected by the Saudi IT crime system, he explained that its aim is to achieve information security, preserve the rights resulting from the use of computers

and networks, and protect the national economy, public interest, public morals and ethics.

His Honor reviewed the types of crimes punishable in the Saudi Anti-Cybercrime Law such as tapping, capturing and intercepting communication calls, illegal entry to threaten or blackmail individuals, infringement of private life and defamation of others, seizing money or data of others, stopping or disabling information network. It also covers the production of whatever might affect religious values or the sanctity of private life, the creation of a website for human trafficking, pornography or drugs, creation of a website for terrorist organizations, promotion of their ideologies, the explanation of how explosives are made, the acquisition of data affecting internal or external security or national economy.

His Honor explained the interests covered by legal protection (personal data - privacy) in Saudi Anti-Cybercrime Law where he said that Article (3) of the Saudi Law punishes every person who commits any of the following information crimes: tapping, capturing or interception of transmitted data through an information network or a computer without legitimate authorization. He defined tapping as listening to the private conversations of others without their consent, a bad habit that reflects impoliteness.

His Honor Judge Al-Alfi moved on speak about electronic extortion which he defined as a process of threatening and intimidating the victim by publishing pictures or film materials or leaking confidential information about the victim in exchange for payment, or by exploiting the victim by forcing him to carry out illegal acts in favor of the blackmailers, such as disclosing confidential information of the employer and so on. Victims are usually snared through e-mails or various social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., or illegal assault to threaten or blackmail a person and



force him to do or not to do something, even if doing or refraining from doing so is legitimate.

In another part of the lecture, Judge Al-Alfi touched on the infringement of private life by misusing mobile phones equipped with cameras and the like, which comes in several forms, such as taking a picture of a person in a private place without his knowledge and consent. It is an encroachment on the sanctity of private life which is protected by law. Examples include tapping a private conversation and taking pictures of a person in a private place.

Judge Al-Alfi also defined defamation and doing harm to others through various information technologies as a written or printed statement intended to damage someone's reputation, using images, signals, or broadcast news. Web pages could be a means of transmitting these disreputable things. An act cannot be considered defamatory unless it has been published and spread, because the defamation damage cannot be achieved merely by writing, but rather by publishing and publicizing the statement about the target person. Defamation lawsuits do not require presentation of sufficient evidence of damage caused to the defamed person. It is generally unnecessary to prove the damage as individuals are commonly exposed to defamation.

In a comparative study, His Honor Judge Al-Alfi cited the Egyptian and UAE laws on anti-cybercrime crimes, saying that they are largely similar to the Saudi Law in definitions terms, criminalization, and penalties.

In the second theme, he discussed the position of local and international legislation to protect e-transactions in banks and financial institutions, and reviewed databases that are protected from penetration, sabotage, or seizure of networks and databases. He listed a number of UAE, Saudi, and Egyptian decrees, suggesting that they all apply the same criteria albeit in different formulations, such as (1) illegal access to delete, remove, destroy, leak,

terminate, alter, or republish private data, (2) disabling or disrupting information network, or destroying or deleting programs or existing or in-use data, or leaking, corrupting or modifying such data, and (3) obstructing access to the service or disrupting it by whatever means available.

His Honor referred to the Arab Convention for Combating Information Technology Crimes which consists of general provisions and definitions as well as description and criminalization of acts, procedural provisions, and legal and judicial cooperation.

Judge Al-Alfi spoke about the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, known as the Budapest Convention of 2001, and defined it as a binding international document that serves as a framework for international cooperation of the member states parties to the said convention. The Council of Europe is working on a second additional protocol to the said Convention that would address the promotion of cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence, and how to obtain electronic evidence through the Internet Protocol Address (IP Address), electronic evidence derived from wiretapping, electronic evidence derived from audio recording, electronic evidence derived from visual imaging, and electronic evidence in the light of the European Convention on Combating Cybercrime (Budapest Convention 2001).

His Honor Judge Dr. Al-Alfi concluded his lecture by quoting examples of crimes of terrorism and cyber extremism and their use in mobilizing and attracting global or national public opinion and establishing platforms for promoting extremist ideology and training to craft explosive devices. Examples of crimes also include the promotion of crime perpetration and the use of technology in terrorism financing by fund-raising or collection of weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as promoting the commitment of terrorist crimes by direct or indirect means.

# IMCTC and Personnel Share Happy Moments



IMCTC hosted, on Monday, March 20, an event to celebrate the International Day of Happiness which is observed on this date annually. The event involved all IMCTC personnel and delegates of member countries and was punctuated by some activities and competitions. The event reflects the fact that IMCTC is keen to join the international community in international days and to enhance contacts among personnel and improve the work environment. This type of occasions, IMCTC believes, implants hope and diffuses happiness among all personnel.



## Professor Al-Harhi Gives a Presentation on Dogmatism



Within the context of cultural events and ideological activities, H.E. Prof. Zaid Ojeer Al-Harhi, Saudi IMCTC Delegate on Ideology, gave a presentation titled “Dogmatic Personality and Ideological Extremism” on March 29, 2023. The presentation aimed at discussing one of the inputs of extremist ideology and terrorism because extremist ideology is a complex process that cannot be attributed to a single cause or factor. There are psychological, social, religious, political, economic and historical factors that have been discussed in previous presentations. However, there still remains a space to complete the analysis of extremism from various aspects, specifically those aspects that relate to the dogmatic personality in view of the fact that most followers of the protagonists of extremism and terrorism possess the dogmatic personality type.

In his thesis, Prof. Al-Harhi discussed several elements: (1) dogmatism, (2) dogmatic personality, (3) how a dogmatic personality is formed, (4) concept of ideological extremism and how it develops, (5) personal traits in the formation of ideological extremism, (6) manifestations of a dogmatic personality and ideological extremism, and (7) prevention and treatment.

In his introductory note, Prof. Al-Harhi first explained that, among countless blessings of Allah, is that He gave us such a great religion of simplicity, tolerance, love, humanity, and mercy. The Sharia is the law that Allah has revealed with its timeless framework and permanents that are valid everywhere, with the interpretations fixed by the Message of Mohammed and other eternal messages. Through the Holy Quran, Sunnah, and consensus, humanity practices worship, interactions, and various legislations that protect and preserve human rights and overshadow them with security, safety, and peace. Through these main sources, thought is shaped

and goes on to interpret, contemplate, make the world better, and provide service for mankind. Thus, humanity proceeded and human innovation developed by taking advantage of the creativity of the human mind in line with religious and natural terms of reference and their interaction.

At the same time, the struggle between truth and falsehood have come into existence since Allah created man, and it continues until Allah regains the earth and all creatures in compliance with His words: (if it were not for Allah checking [some] people by means of others, the earth would have been corrupted) [2: 251].

Thus, Allah has created Heaven and Hell, although He has enlightened the way and granted man – with his thought and reason – the ability to discern and make the right use of survival and human interaction. However, many have departed from the right path and deviated from the benevolent nature and proper heavenly legislation. Many people throughout history have committed themselves to right way of their religion, their moderate approach of life and dealing according to what Allah has ordained in His Book and to what His Messengers elucidated with their right thought that guide to the building of the world and compliance with Almighty Allah’s commands to behave and think properly.

However, ignorance about religion and the in-depth knowledge of contemporary requirements and developments have generated a deviant and extremist ideology, especially among a certain sect whose members refused to think according to the spirit of religion and associated law, and relied on their own thoughts and the influences of their leaders and deviated on the basis of illogical circumstances and motives, which drove them to think of clashing with normal thought through violent methods and rejection of consensus, believing that they are the sole possessors of the truth.

Among the explanations cited by psychologists in analyzing the personalities of extremists and terrorists is what is called “dogmatism”, which is one of the factors that should be considered in the process of analyzing extremist ideology.

Prof. Al-Harhi then defined dogmatism as a state of ideological rigidity, in which a person’s ideology becomes so intolerant that it refuses to get acquainted with opposing ideologies, and that if evidence appears to this person that proves the falsehood of his ideology, he fights off with all his might and struggles to prove that his ideology and opinion are true. Dogmatism is thus a severe case of intolerance to ideologies, principles and convictions, to the point of being hostile to anything different!

Prof. Al-Harhi defined the dogmatic personality according to psychologists who attribute dogmatism to reasons of ideological rigidity that stems from the catharsis function, a relaxation function by which a person vents the feeling of aggression, hate and suppressed frustration. Catharsis takes place through self-defense mechanisms. Some psychological studies indicate that the dogmatic person might have been exposed to severe or violent educational methods in their family and childhood. Therefore, such people exhibit these complexes and feelings in their behavior and beliefs, thus becoming more inclined to intolerance and domineering.

How can we then identify a dogmatic personality! He said that many psychological studies have revealed that the dogmatic personality can be identified through standardized tests in this field, which produced such indications as: a dogmatic personality aspires to be ideal and perfect. A dogmatic person is inexperienced but does not want to admit that. A dogmatic person is single-minded and can hardly change his opinion or belief. He is a person who gives the others the impression that he can answer whatever question he asks or faces his ideology, owing to the principles and



concepts he keeps by heart and frequently quotes in his dialogues. Prof. Al-Harhi cited many telling examples from the followers of the proponents of extremist ideology and such terrorist organizations as Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram and other organizations from the right wing and other faiths and religions. In their propositions and messages that they diffuse through the various means of communication and websites, we hear and see that they memorize some poor or baseless traditions and hadiths reiterated by their leaders, so that they cite them as postulates and unanimously agreed upon, while their leaders hold on to the claim that they exclusively possess the strategic thought and are entrusted with its espousal and fight to protect it by following the characteristically dogmatic personality.

Dogmatic people exhibit confusion, tension, constant anxiety, suspicion and inconsistency in interacting with others, and lose awareness of their illogical actions and behavior patterns. Similarly, they lack the sense of feelings of others or the consequences of their actions. We have seen how the actions of some associates of terrorist organizations were devoid of human feelings and how they severely punished those whom they believed disagreed with them in terms of opinion and belief.

In his psychological analysis of the extremist personality in terms of ideology and belief, Prof. Al-Harhi went on to say that the individuals who embrace extremist ideology suffer from psychological self-contradiction and conflict, and perhaps in their personal traits, in that they see themselves to understand better and have more mature reason and more awareness of religious issues. Their purpose is to prove themselves and cover up their weaknesses with the successes they achieved in ordinary life. Some of them espouse a stand-alone religious project under the imposing weight of superiority. And, in their adoption of these ideas and beliefs, they hold that the others were tempted by devils and are going to hell. For this reason, such extremists become willing to sacrifice their lives, fighting the opponents of their beliefs, with a conviction that they are the only ones who will go to Paradise.

This ideology influenced, and reflected in, the personalities of many of the terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, in Al-Qaeda, in Iraq and the Levant, in ISIS and other organizations that claim to belong to Islam in other continents as well as those that claim to belong to other religions. Many telling examples emerged that represent and lead opposition to Islamic thought and incite hatred against the values, books and followers of Islam. These represent what is today called "Islamophobia" which led to terrorist attacks in New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, etc.

Prof. Al-Harhi moved on to talk about the personality traits of the protagonists of extremist ideology. The important fact to be acknowledged, he said, is that people are not born terrorists, but rather a newborn is born on instinct and his personality is formed through genetic and environmental factors and the interaction between them, giving rise to what psychologists define as "individual differences". There exist the smart, the genius and the inventor. On the other hand, there exist those with average intelligence, those with low-level intelligence, and so on. Similarly, there exist those who bear the characteristics of leaders and protagonists, and those who bear the characteristics of followers. There exist those who are mentally sensible, and there exist those who are mentally retarded, and so on. Therefore, in talking about the traits of leaders, protagonists of extremism, and influencers in this field, we talk about a small group in the scale of moderateness curve. By analyzing personal characteristics, such influencers become active in the attraction and recruitment of different groups to em-

brace their ideology and beliefs.

Following the surveys conducted by many studies in this field, we find that such people have a high degree of intelligence, and that they have a high ability to lead and influence others in terms of physical and linguistic characteristics. They experience a high rate of failure to adapt to society, its values, and its life pattern. They feel alienated from the society and fail to play positive roles. As a result of their arrogance and feeling proud of their ideas and worldview, they spend their time rallying followers around them to prove their status and power of challenge and disagreement with the major group and its regime such as Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram, the extremist right-wing groups in the West, and so on.

In answering a question about how does dogmatism disorder occur and what type of people does it afflict, Prof. Al-Harhi replied that dogmatism is a disorder that afflicts ignorant or half-educated people and is akin to the closure of the mind not to think outside the texts or in line with the normal human thinking, which is akin to ideological effort. Therefore, dogmatism means self-exaltation, adherence to rigid beliefs and opinions and weird interpretations of religion and life.

Speaking about the treatment and how to change a dogmatic personality, Prof. Al-Harhi explained that the answer to this question requires our admission that the change of personality and ideology, and the treatment and prevention ideological deviation, are part of the most complex and difficult stages and processes that face managers, security officials, educators, and parents. The emergence of such a personality and associated characteristics in any person is the result of the interaction of genetic factors and environmental influences that date back to childhood; the more attention is paid to upbringing and education in the early stages of a person's life, the more this leads to the formation of normal personalities. Whenever families abandon or fail to take care of the upbringing of their children in the early stages, this leads to ill personalities of the children and disturb their behavior patterns. However, it is possible to treat and care for those who were left behind and already entered the stages of disorder and fell under the influence of extremist ideologues and bad companionship.

Prof. Al-Harhi, Saudi IMCTC Delegate on Ideology, concluded his presentation with a vibrant wisdom: "With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you can kill terrorism." This is an inspiring quote from Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani thinker and Nobel Prize winner. In the Counter-Terrorism Reference Curriculum Report (CTRC) issued by NATO, Antonio Mbirolli, Assistant Secretary General, Investigations Division, and John Manza, Assistant Secretary General, Operations Division, stated in their introduction to the report that [the formation of a clear understanding of the terrorist threats posed before us today and tomorrow requires us not only to raise the levels of awareness of terrorism issues, but also to adopt a method of continuous learning and continuous investment in the education of future generations. We sincerely hope that this approach will serve the counterterrorism expanded family as an in-depth reference document, and that it will contribute to the process of learning and training at the national level, equally in all allied and partner countries concerned, and to strengthen these efforts through various tracks, including the NATO program to enhance education in the field of defense (DEEP).

From this presentation, we conclude that dogmatism is a disorder that spreads among many people and many societies and has to do with the absence of scientific and logical thinking when rigid ideas control the behavior of individuals and their relationship with each other.

## A Students Delegation from the Command and Staff College Visits IMCTC



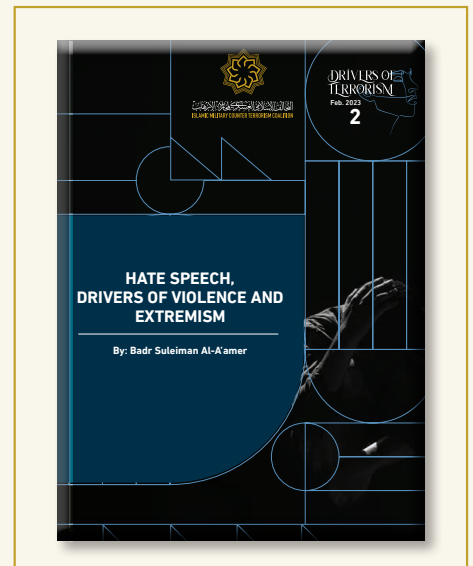
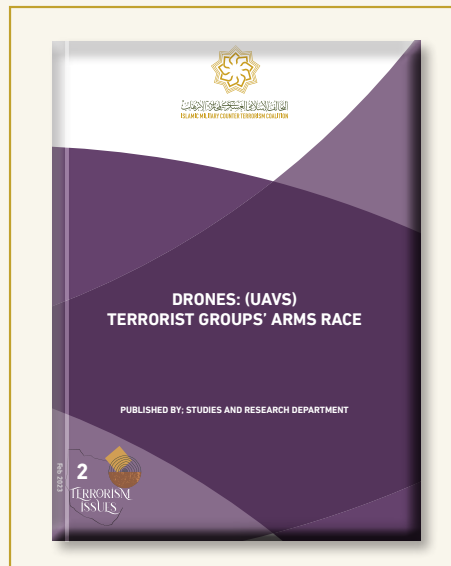
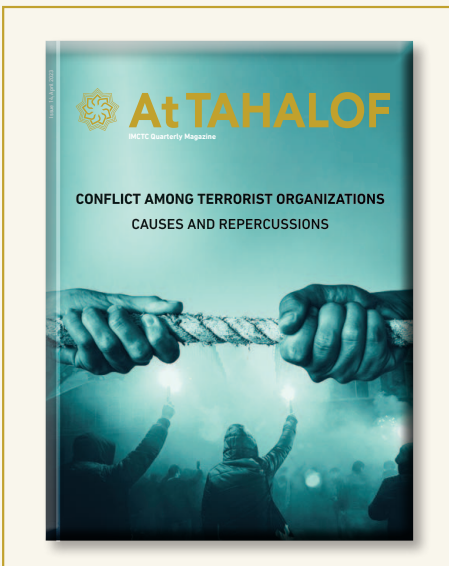
As part of the series of mutual visits among the bodies concerned, the visit of students delegations at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College to the Master of Strategic Studies Program, the National Security Diploma, and the IMCTC Military Communications Diploma took place on Sunday, March 12, 2023. The students were received by the IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al- Moghedi. The delegation was given a detailed explanation about the most important IMCTC actions in the various counterterrorism domains and the strategies on which it is based to carry out its counterterrorism initiatives. Then the visiting delegation toured around the IMCTC premises and was briefed on the most important counterterrorism publications. They were also briefed on the latest developments related to terrorist organizations and events around the world.



## IMCTC Publications in their New Format

As part of the IMCTC's publications series, issue no. 14, April 2023, of the IMCTC Quarterly Magazine has been published, featuring, among others, a major theme titled "Conflict Among Terrorist Organizations: Causes and Repercussions". Similarly, IMCTC this month released two new monthly editions. The first edition comes under a monthly series titled "Terrorism Issues". This series reviews a case on terrorism around the world from the researcher's perspective, based on the researcher's study and analysis of such a case in the geographical area under study. The case must be-

long to one of the four IMCTC work domains. The second edition comes under a series titled "Drivers of Terrorism" which includes a study and analysis of the most important factors closely related to terrorism, such as the environment, deviant ideologies and convictions, and the like which, according to the findings of research studies, are counted among the main drivers of terrorism. As such, the research study must fall within the four IMCTC counterterrorism domains.

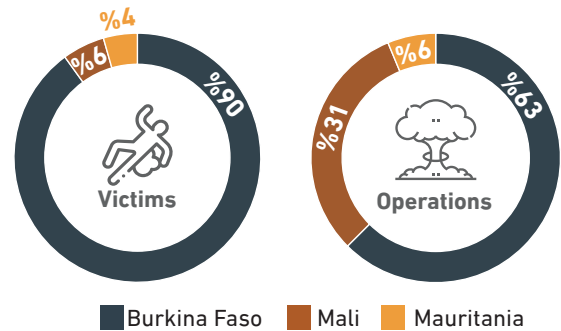


# Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries, March 2023



In March, the G5 Sahel countries witnessed a drop of 6% in terms of the number of terrorist operations, and a drop of 63% in terms of the total death toll and number of injuries compared to February 2023.

Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Feb. 2023	Mar. 2023	Feb. 2023	Mar. 2023
Burkina Faso	10	= 10	168	↓ 81
Mali	5	= 5	33	↓ 5
Mauritania	0	↑ 1	0	↑ 4
Niger	2	↓ 0	40	↓ 0
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>↓ 16</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>↓ 90</b>



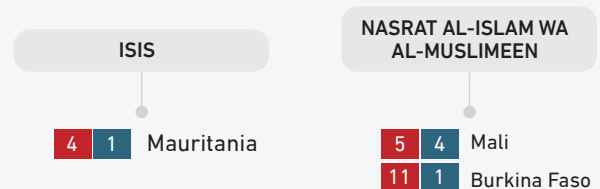
## Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Military Sector	Civilians	Non-governmental Organizations
Burkina Faso	36 Victims, 4 Operations	45 Victims, 6 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations
Mali	5 Victims, 4 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations	0 Victims, 1 Operations
Mauritania	4 Victims, 1 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations

## Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method

Abduction	0 Victims, 1 Operations	0 Victims, 1 Operations	Mali
Explosion	8 Victims, 1 Operations	8 Victims, 1 Operations	Burkina Faso
Ambush	22 Victims, 5 Operations	19 Victims, 3 Operations	Burkina Faso
		3 Victims, 2 Operations	Mali
Armed Attack	60 Victims, 9 Operations	54 Victims, 6 Operations	Burkina Faso
		2 Victims, 2 Operations	Mali
		4 Victims, 1 Operations	Mauritania

## Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



## Key Political and Security Developments

**Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso announced the end of the “military assistance accord” signed with France in 1961, weeks after it had requested France to pull out its troops from this country which witnesses acts of violence carried out by extremists.

**Mali:** Malian Prime Minister Dr. Choguel Kokalla Maïga revealed the details of the French withdrawal from his country, stating that his country has accurate information and evidence that some terrorists in Mali had been in contact with France.

**Niger:** President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, and President of Be-

nin, Patrice Talon, held discussions about the dangers of ISIS and concluding a bilateral agreement for military cooperation, security coordination, and exchange of intelligence.

**Chad:** A presidential pardon has been granted for hundreds of rebels sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of ex-president Idriss Deby.

**Mauritania:** According to the Mauritanian Ministry of Interior, four jihadists fled a prison in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, during an operation that left two security personnel dead.

## Director of Arab Office of Counter-Extremism and Terrorism in Riyadh Visits IMCTC



H.E. Director of the Arab Office of Counter-Extremism and Terrorism in Riyadh, Col. Dr. Naif bin Sulaiman Al-Mutlaq, visited IMCTC on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, where he was received by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi. During the visit, Col. Dr. Al-Mutlaq was briefed on the most important efforts made by IMCTC to counter terrorism using various means and methods, and on the strategies on which

IMCTC is based to implement its counterterrorism initiatives. He was also briefed on IMCTC's key role to counter extremist ideology and coordinate all efforts to deal with terrorist courses of action by adopting initiatives taken in ideological, communications, counterterrorism financing and military domains, along with the IMCTC action in coordinating the efforts of its member states. During the visit, matters of common concern were discussed.



## IMCTC Congratulates Member Countries on National Occasions

IMCTC congratulated each of the Republic of Tunisia and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the anniversaries of their independence days corresponding to March 20, 2023, and March 26, 2023, respectively, and wished the two countries and their citizens long-lasting security and prosperity. Countries and their citizens usually celebrate their national occasions because such celebrations significantly enhance the sense of belonging to the homeland and reinforce the concepts of unity, fraternity, tolerance and peace among societies, which is why IMCTC is always keen on congratulating its member countries on such national occasions.