



SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM



In commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, IMCTC virtually held on August 20, 2020 its eighth monthly symposium on "Global Practices and Experiences in Support of Victims of Terrorism" at the IMCTC Center auditorium.

The symposium was spearheaded by Dr. Charles Swanson, Professor of Security and Military Sciences from the University of Leicester, Britain, and Dr. Mona Al-Achqar Jabbour from the Lebanese University in Beirut. The symposium was moderated by Dr. Hadi bin Ali Al-Yami, Member of the Shura Council and Chairman of the Human Rights and Regularity Authorities Committee at the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia. The symposium was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, delegates of the IMCTC member countries and IMCTC staff.

The speakers discussed global practices and experiences of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of terrorism, within the frameworks of social responsibility and criminal justice, and strengthening partnership between governments and civil society institutions.

In conclusion, IMCTC Secretary-General stated that the symposium is part of the IMCTC activities to counter extremist ideologies and terrorism, expressing his appreciation for the highly valued input of all of the participants. ... Page 8

IMCTC SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES AMBASSADORS OF MALAYSIA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO SAUDI ARABIA



Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, IMCTC Secretary-General, received on August 18, 2020, H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Razzaq Abdul-Wahab, along with his accompanying delegation. Then, on August 30, 2020, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi also received H. E. Ambassador of Mozambique to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Faisal Fakir Qassam. Their Excellencies were provided with an overview of the IMCTC counterterrorism efforts across the four domains of action, and the unremitting efforts of the IMCTC member countries.

On his side, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi highlighted that the IMCTC represents an important Islamic alliance, seeking to strengthen cooperation among member countries, based on legitimacy, independence, coordination and participation, making all the actions of the IMCTC member countries in harmony with international laws, regulations and norms.

The IMCTC consists of 41 member countries, working together to coordinate their efforts in the international war on violent extremism and terrorism as well as participating in other international efforts that aim at maintaining international peace and security. ■

REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO DELEGATE JOINS IMCTC



The Military Attaché of the Republic of Burkina Faso in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Colonel Abdou Diallo, joined IMCTC on August 16, 2020, bringing the number of the IMCTC member countries that have designated and sent their respective delegates to 22.

On his part, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, IMCTC Secretary-General, extended a warm welcome to the delegate of the Republic of Burkina Faso, wishing him success in performing his role so as to serve the IMCTC counterterrorism initiatives and efforts. ■

TERRORISM IS DESTROYING LIVELIHOODS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN



The terrorist attacks spearheaded by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad since 2009 have brought about massive displacement of myriad locals, the destruction of livelihoods and the decline in food production. Against a backdrop of military campaigns and security restrictions, the stability of the region has been negatively impacted. The persistently orchestrated destruction of livelihoods exacerbates food insecurity, reduces the return of displaced persons, and slows the recovery of regions affected by armed activities in the region.

BOKO HARAM AND LIVELIHOOD CRISIS

The latest issue of The African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), a journal published by the African Union, features the discussion of this critically important crisis, which is a matter of life or death by Dr. Ernest Ogbzor, a visiting scholar at the Center for Peacemaking Practice at George Mason University in Virginia, USA, themed "From Counterterrorism to Livelihood Destruction: Factors Causing Systemic and Continuing Destruction of Livelihoods in the Lake Chad Basin."

This research study discusses the impact of Boko Haram and factors contributory

to aggravating livelihood crisis in the Lake Chad region, based on the interview of 125 households in five communities: Dalori, Mubi, Pompomari in Nigeria, Bourrha in Cameroon and Gagamari in Niger. According to the World Bank (WB), the risk factors for conflict were prevalent and rampant across the Lake Chad region even before the onset of militant activities, such as undiversified economy, governance-related challenges, environmental vulnerability, youth bulge, migration and insecurity. Amidst this tumult sneaked Boko Haram into the region to exacerbate the challenges faced by rural communities to create conditions favorable for violence and instability.

Given the military campaign of President Mohammed Buhari's administration, there has been a decline in violence from militant groups since mid-2015. On the flip side of the reality, violence has persistently continued in the region due to food insecurity, massive population displacement and decimation of local economy. Around mid-2018, splinter factions of Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) re-launched attacks on military bases on

civilians and their livelihoods. In the same vein, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) attributes the persistence of violence and instability across the region to factors such as social and economic tensions, unsustainable agricultural practices, erratic rainfall and other environmental factors contributory to the unrest. Equally notorious, the war economy, government policies and the negative impact of counter-insurgency operations have glaringly contributed to spreading violence and food insecurity across the region.

Before the Boko Haram insurgency came into play, subsistence agriculture used to be the most dominant livelihood activities for the communities of the Lake Chad Basin. The people there used to grow cereal crops, such as millet, maize, beans and groundnut. They also reared livestock such as cow, goat, sheep and poultry.

Subsistence agriculture simply means self-sufficient farming; that is, farming that tides farmers and their families over till next year and so on. The majority of the households interviewed reported that farming made up their primary source of livelihood, accounting for different percentages: Dalori (60%); Bourrha (52%); Pompomari (48%); Gagamari (40%); and

Mubi (36%). By and large, farming accounted for (47.2%), herding (15.2%) and fishing (4%) of the livelihood activities of the communities. Still, (34%) of households were engaged in other activities such as teaching, tailoring, carpentry, bricklaying and bicycle repair. The FAO concluded that 80-90% of the communities in the Lake Chad basin depend on agriculture.

A study conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the Minawao Refugee Camp, Cameroon, reveals that most of the refugees were Nigerians engaged in farming (71%), trading (22%) and cattle herding (8%). These people murmured about the drop in agricultural production.

A seminal comparison conducted to further explain the household income and livelihood activities before and after the emergence of Boko Haram reveals that the said group sacked and bulldozed the farmers into the wild, disrupted the prevalent agricultural activities and occupied several local government areas in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states. A comparative analysis of the household income before and during the insurgency reveals a drastic decline in household income during the insurgency phase. Before the Boko Haram period, Bourrha reported the highest average monthly income of \$75, while Gagamari \$55.9, Mubi \$70.2, Pompomari \$65.8 and Dalori \$60.43.

HOW DOES TERRORISM DESTROY LIVELIHOOD ASSETS?

The five communities under discussion, the households interviewed reported that Boko Haram had a direct negative impact on their communities, committing crimes, forced displacements, and indirectly affecting household income, agricultural activities, food prices, markets and transportation. In the same vein, farmers from Dalori, Mubi and Pompomari reported that direct attacks were launched by the terrorist group on their communities, bringing about deaths and injuries and changes and bereavements in household compositions.

In addition, Boko Haram destroyed livelihood assets, since insecurity limits access to essential livelihood assets such as farmlands, schools, and service institutions and facilities. In the same vein, a survivor of the Dalori massacre narrated how Boko Haram militants dressed in military

uniforms stormed and raided savagely our village with vehicles and motorcycles. He added: "we thought that they had rushed to protect us; yet they attacked us, looted and carted away our foodstuff and livestock and set fire on the entire village. Dolorously enough, we watched our houses, food storage and livestock burnt down to ashes.

Another survivor reported firmly that the only asset left in the community following the attack was bare land and the remnant of burnt properties. He further explained that surviving without assets to live on is worse than death itself; I used to sell firewood but now lost everything. Although the insurgent occupation of Mubi was short-lived, the damage was huge. When the Nigerian security forces restored the town in 2014, a returnee gave an account of destructions, explaining that all the eight banks in Mubi were razed down to the ground, and now they have to travel a long way for two hours to Yola for banking services. After taking control of Mubi in late 2014, Boko Haram militants stole more than \$300,000 from a Diamond Bank branch in Mubi. In Pompomari, people sustained restrictions to access farmlands and grazing animals due to insecurity and military restrictions. Regrettably enough, people have been prevented from cultivating what they will eat. Boko Haram reduced infrastructures such as homes, health facilities, schools, bridges and communication facilities to rubble. Brutally vandalized by the militants, some schools were shut down or occupied by internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Boko Haram sacked communities, causing the displacement of both people and livestock. A data analysis carried out by the International Office for Migration (IOM) reveals that until November 2016, the IDPs in Dalori were the highest in Yobe State. The IDPs interviewed reported that their markets were burnt or shut down in Pompomari and Mubi because of insecurity or suicide attacks rife in the areas. Farmers experienced grave losses as they could not find markets to sell their products.

The Borno State Government also had to shut down four key cattle markets to choke the cash flow funneled to Boko Haram, allegedly used to dealing with intermediaries to sell stolen and looted

cattle and livestock. The outright closure of some markets hurt livelihoods and increased food insecurity. The market activities plummeted down by 40% because many traders avoided doing business in the city as it was the epicenter of the violence fueled by Boko Haram.

FROM NIGERIA TO NIGER

Niger is principally living from pastoral farming, pasturage, grazing land and herding, but insecurity and closure of the border with Nigeria impacted livestock production and trade across the country. Equally important, Niger also depends on importing grains and cereals from Nigeria. However, the closure of Damask market to reduce the threat of Boko Haram attacks increased the cost of commodities across a bordering town in Niger. By the same token in Cameroon, the closure of the borders with Nigeria reduced the number of traders coming from Nigeria to buy food products and livestock from Cameroon. This caused surplus commodities, poor sales, poor transport, insecurity, food insecurity, bribery, corruption and unease of doing business.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Insecurity should be addressed, especially in communities impacted by militant activities to consolidate the ongoing recovery and stabilization efforts in communities impacted by insurgency in the Lake Chad region.
- Security restrictions and military blockage that limit access to livelihood assets should be reduced to ensure access to farm production resources.
- Relief and emergency intervention to IDPs, host communities, and returnees should continue. The agencies of governments and donors should provide food aid to address precarious food security and nutrition situation in the Lake Chad region.
- Livelihood intervention should be provided through cash and tools to farmers to ensure their return to primary livelihood activities.
- Drawing up a broad rural development plan that prioritizes agricultural development should be established as a strategy for the long-term stability of the Lake Chad Basin. ■

CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION LEADING TO VIOLENCE



The Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) was established in March 2015 with the support of the Quebec Government in the City of Montréal and the robust engagement of community and institutional partners. Created as a pioneering center in Canada and North America., the CPRLV is the first independent non-profit organization that aims to prevent violent radicalization and provides support to individuals impacted by the phenomenon, including individuals who are radicalized or experiencing radicalization, family or friends of such individuals, teachers, professionals or field workers. Equally important, the CPRLV is regionally mandated with the prevention of hate crimes and incidents. It is also tasked with providing support, advisory and counselling for victims of such extremist acts.

The CPRLV aims to prevent radicalization leading to violence and hate-triggered behaviors through programs based on education, sensitization, awareness and support for people of Montreal and Quebec, while developing a community-based approach to take preemptive actions, oriented towards accessibility for all in close cooperation with partners from all backgrounds, disciplines and subject-matter expertise.

The CPRLV has a wealth of multi-disciplinary team members that can readily address all facets and ideological mani-

festations of radicalization. At the core of its approach, the CPRLV places a special focus on education, public awareness, and prevention. It also seeks to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable individuals and to promote social integration of the community. To this end, the CPRLV relies heavily on the support and cooperation of community and institutional partners, ensuring a balance between prevention and security in a fully transparent manner.

To ensure the CPRLV has maximum impact, it highlights the development of a broad range of resources (training programs, workshops, documentation, tools, etc.). As the CPRLV is particularly mindful of the importance of using empirical data and recognized subject-matter expertise, it evinces robust engagement in research development and knowledge dissemination.

The CPRLV projects seek to create an ample opportunity for people directly affected by radicalization leading to violence, to retell their personal stories and experiences to the public. The CPRLV produces a number of publications, reports, studies and research, showcased by the annual report which provides a summary of the activities carried out by the CPRLV. The CPRLV distinguishes between four types of radicalization, adumbrated as follows:

• RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

It is a form of radicalization akin to fascism, racism, supremacism and ultra-na-

tionalism. Characteristically, it feeds off violent defense of a racial, ethnic or pseudo-national identity. It is also associated with radical hostility towards state authorities, minorities, immigrants and left-wing political groups.

• LEFT-WING EXTREMISM

It is a form of radicalization that drums up primarily for anti-capitalist calls for the transformation of political systems responsible for producing social inequalities, which may ultimately employ violent means to further its cause. This includes Anarchism, Maoism, Trotskyism and Leninist Marxism that use violence to advocate for their cause.

• POLITICO-RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

It is a form of radicalization pegged onto a political interpretation of religion and the defense using violent means, of a religious identity deemed under attack by international conflicts, foreign policy, social debates, etc.

• SINGLE-ISSUE-RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

It is a form of radicalization essentially driven by one sole issue, including radical environmental or animal rights groups, anti-abortion extremists, and ultra-individualist or independent extremist movements that use violence to promote their causes. Mass murderers whose motivations are partially or wholly ideological may also so be considered. ■

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE



The Member States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have often condemned all manifestations of terrorism, emphasizing that terrorism cannot be justified no matter what, and that a continued war on terrorism must be waged within the scope of jurisdictions, institutions, international human rights laws and the OSCE commitments.

HOLISTIC EFFORTS

In December 2001, the participating countries did recognize that military and security operations to curb terrorist threats alone cannot pay off in the long run. By adopting the Bucharest Counterterrorism Plan of the OSCE, the Member States have emphasized the need to address various social, economic and political factors, including separatist propensities and extremism that create conditions conducive for terrorist organizations to attract and win support.

The participating countries stated that the holistic efforts for security made by the OSCE offer important benefits for counterterrorism. This includes identifying and addressing these factors and using all the tools and means. The multifaceted initiative emphasizes that in parallel with the political and military actions of security, protecting and supporting human rights, economic development and sustainable environment are integral parts of security and stability. The OSCE initiative includes cooperation between the various stakeholders at all levels to confront threats and challenges through governmental and non-governmental influencers.

The OSCE takes a holistic approach to

security that encompasses political, military, human, economic and environmental aspects. Therefore, it addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence and security building measures, human rights, national minorities, democracy, security-keeping strategies, counterterrorism, and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating countries have equal levels, and decisions are taken by consensus on a political basis, not on a legally binding basis.

The OSCE participating countries agree that terrorism is one of the most important threats to peace, security and stability, and the protection of human rights and social and economic development in the OSCE region and beyond.

Terrorism seeks to undermine the values that bring the OSCE together. The participating countries refuse to associate terrorism with any race, nationality or religion; therefore, the OSCE is resolute in implementing counterterrorism actions.

GUIDELINES

The OSCE is based on several counterterrorism guidelines, including making a holistic contribution to the international counterterrorism efforts led by the United Nations, and addressing associated manifestations thereof, as well as various social, economic and political factors that create conditions favorable for terrorist organizations to gain more support and recruitment.

The OSCE promotes a cooperative and coordinated approach to counterterrorism at all levels, including coordination between

national authorities, cooperation between states and with relevant international and regional organizations, and the creation of special partnerships between government agencies, the private sector, civil society and the media. The OSCE makes these efforts with support from the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with the uniform framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Counterterrorism

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Counterterrorism includes a number of specialized areas: strengthening the implementation of the international legal framework to counterterrorism, strengthening international legal cooperation in terrorism-related criminal matters, combating violent extremism and extremism leading to terrorism, through a multi-dimensional approach, preventing methods of funneling financial support to terrorism, clamping down on the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, promoting dialogue, cooperating on counterterrorism issues, especially establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors, and between state and private authorities “the business and industrial community”, civil society, the media, strengthening national efforts to implement Security Council Decision No. 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, strengthening the security of travel documents, promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in the context of counterterrorism actions. ■

IS EXTREMISM IDEOLOGICAL DEVIATION OR PSYCHOPATHY?



The phenomenon of extremism and violent extremism leading to terrorism provokes many discussions, among which is a heated debate that interprets the given scenes outside the social values as a conspiracy, describing those involved as brainwashed, especially when it is difficult to interpret levels and methods of violence. This question mark hovers over another leading question: Is extremism and violent extremism leading to terrorism an illness or a psychological disorder that requires medical interventions and consultations? Or it is just an ideological deviation, whether by deceiving, involving youth and exploiting their enthusiasm, or by fanning and harnessing their emotions to serve the goals of violent groups and their transnational plans?

DISPOSITIONISM AND SITUATIONISM

Specialists generally express different views on social and political phenomena; two theses explain the attitudes of specialists in social fields: dispositionism and situationism.

Dispositionism is defined as a broad view that includes all the approaches that give priority to the individual's personality, propensities, beliefs and values in the interpretation of social phenomena. This thesis links extremism and violent extremism

leading to terrorism and the personality of the individual.

Situationism attaches priority to the milieu, attitudes, circumstances and ambient contexts; it considers that the situation engulfing the individual impacts their behavior more than their personal traits to a greater extent. This simply means that the extremism and violent extremism that leads to terrorism is triggered by circumstances, attitudes and contexts that affect an individual's behaviors and choices directly or indirectly.

Situationism is the most adopted by researchers in social psychology as the researchers with a view of Dispositionism profoundly contest the impact of personal traits on different people's responses to external situations. One social researcher explains there is a large amount of evidence (mostly in social psychology) that some situations require normative and specific behaviors, and there is a large amount of evidence (mostly in cognitive psychology) that our personal propensities are of particular importance in other circumstances. This debate contradicts the justifications of extremists and terrorists in which they try to explain the logical pattern of what they do.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Some specialists tend to make extremism and intolerance a psychological disorder or disease, and the root causes may be socio-psychological; it starts with nurturing and develops with social normalization. As such, it is an acquired trend by learning. Others see extremism and intolerance as a dimension of the authoritarian, non-resilient and stereotypical character, as there is no instinct for extremism and intolerance; rather, readiness and preparedness for it. In addition, extremism is exacerbated by continued emotional charging, directly by the surrounding environment or by the media and international agencies that aim to obtain a scoop or a press release, contributing to the spread of the idea of violent or indirect extremism by the media used by terrorist groups, especially the ISIS at the zenith of its achievements, between 2013 and 2015.

Some psychologists attribute some of the causes of extremism and intolerance to lack of feelings in a person that makes such a person overstate the association with the values and standards of the group to feel proudly strong, then finds a vent to voice and breathe out one's feelings. Since

the extremist is usually characterized by narrow-mindedness, such a person is trapped into frustration, which triggers and stokes an aggression directed at the community members. Extremism and intolerance take many manifestations; verbal intolerance, being overbearing, imperious and insulting, or physical or material assault of others, or even their extermination. The other side is stigmatized with a generalized stereotype that such a person is one of the "infidels" who should be tortured in this world and the hereafter, and should be killed.

It can be argued that the patterns of extremism and intolerance differ as a psychosocial phenomenon, according to the personality of the individual; intolerance may be of a pathological nature and an inherent characteristic of the personality. Alternatively, it may be influenced by traumatic experience, or as a result of compatibility and conformity with prevailing social norms. On this basis, some scholars define intolerance based on three aspects: ideological aspects (it is an idea), emotional aspects (it is an emotion) and dispositional aspects (it is behavior).

EXTREMISM OSCILLATING BETWEEN DISPOSITION, SITUATION AND DECISION

Making extremism or violent extremism leading to terrorism a mental illness that needs medical or psychological treatment, and the belief that the individual is forced to make decisions that threaten community are critically problematic; namely, the exclusion of the terrorist's responsibility for his or her behavior and crimes, as immature and not fully aware of what he or she does. Sociopsychologist Philip Zimbardo, Author of 'Stanford Prison Experience,' remarks that humans can choose between becoming good or bad, regardless of their genetic inheritance, their personalities, or their family history and background, as these traits can be acquired through learning, experience or training. Humans can completely ignore their human values for crazy extremist ideologies, to be roped to follow orders of ideologically rigid and priggish (dogmatic) authorities to destroy everything they consider "the enemy".

It should be noted that there is a personal decision and responsibility to follow the pathway of extremism and violent extremism; it is the extremist who is after terrorist groups, with a decision made carefully. Whether the motives are personal or related to the surrounding circumstances, such as marginalization, injustice, discrimination based on religion or race, and viola-

tions of human rights, or economic drivers due to poverty, unemployment, and corruption, such as the ideal vision of the world, flattening the complex and compound realities of society, searching for identity, interacting with collective grievances and attraction to extremist influencers; all these factors are shared by millions, but few respond to them. As such, the decision is principally personal.

SEARCH FOR SELF AND CAUSE

Scott Atran, a researcher and expert on terrorist organizations, explains that extremists do not commit terrorism because they are exceptional retaliators, indifferent, poor or uneducated, who lack self-respect, have received extremist education and have been brainwashed, or because they tend to criminalize or commit suicide; rather, they are decoyed by forlorn hope and mirage. They need to espouse a great cause from their perspective, allowing them to venture into a life-and-death battle to steal glory and respect; they are charged to commit genocide for what they deem rightful. Suicide bombers are young people going through transitional stages, with their uncertain future shut off, believing that dying for a cause is eternalization of values.

It seems that anger twinned with sheer frustration and the craving for unlocking tedium and the desperate search for adventure, adding their flavor to their stark existence, are all factors that magnetize extremism. For instance, groups of peers along with extended and nuclear family members from the same region in North Africa, the Middle East or Central and South Asia, or people affiliated with European housing projects in marginalized neighborhoods are searching for the same jihadist websites on the internet to find some inspiration or guidance. Indeed, most of these congregations show a poor level of religious education.

The ties created via terrorist networks are closer than those of criminal gangs, such as the mafia and drug gangs; they have a commitment to a moral cause, which legitimizes greater sacrifice than is the case for entities based on material incentives. In jihad, the cause is transcendental and overrides any profitability perceived; the paramount profit for the Mujahideen is voluntarily martyrdom beyond a shadow of doubt.

MEANS OF RESISTANCE

To gear up for counterterrorism actions, it should be recognized that extremism leading to terrorism is not merely an accidental



deviation from mainstream ideologies or simply a mental illness; rather, an individual moves in one pathway as a result of factors of push and pull by self-determination. This could start in early childhood, with balanced, healthy upbringing at home, school and places of worship, and creating a collective conscience that resists extremism and intolerance.

The harmonization between group activities in which the various components of community are involved, such as seminars, webinars, scout meetings and sport games, have demonstrated that they can change the ideologies drummed up by intolerance and extremism; this helps to create common projects for the interest of groups. It is also useful to adopt some treatment strategies and sociometric measures in cases of conflict of different parties; a productive method requires asking the two warring parties to put themselves in the shoes of each other and consider things from the other side's perspective.

Fulfilling the needs of youth, especially the most mentally and ideological vulnerable and fragile group that is more likely to respond to calls for violent extremism will contribute to protecting them from the threats of being drawn into violence. Ideologically, enhancing critical thinking and understanding cognitive biases and logical fallacies also help foster the awareness of the complexity of communities and interactions. Psychologically, supporting voluntary initiatives based on team work with broader goals has a great impact on developing a sense of transcendent purpose of life. ■

IMCTC HIGHLIGHTS SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM VICTIMS



IMCTC virtually held its eighth monthly symposium titled Global Practices and Experiences in Support of Victims of Terrorism, at the IMCTC Center in Riyadh with the participation of Dr. Charles Swanson, Professor of Security and Military Sciences at the University of Leicester, Britain, and Dr. Mona Al-Achqar Jabbour from the Lebanese University in Beirut. The symposium was moderated by Dr. Hadi bin Ali Al-Yami, Member of the Saudi Shura Council, Chairman of the Human Rights and Regulatory Authorities Committee at the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia.

IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al- Moghedi, further explained that IMCTC held the eighth monthly symposium in commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, wishing the IMCTC member countries to gain much benefit from the best practices in rehabilitating and integrating victims of terrorism, and to evince robust engagement in counterterrorism.

On his part, Dr. Swanson presented some global practices and experiences in rehabilitating victims of terrorism, within the framework of the partnership among governments, civil society institutions and the non-profit sector. In the same vein, Dr. Al-Achqar also discussed some global practices and experiences regarding support for victims and survivors of terrorism, within the framework of criminal justice.

TRIPARTITE APPROACH

Dr. Swanson presented a three-tiered approach to support all victims of terrorism

around the world, on three main levels: the international level, the governmental level and the non-profit level.

On the international level, Dr. Swanson emphasized the importance of international cooperation in support of victims of terrorism. As the impact of terrorism is not limited to specific countries; it snowballs into a general international problem that requires the highest levels of international cooperation to better ensure the support of the victim and the country concerned.

Blazing a trail, the United Nations stressed that member states bear the greatest responsibility in implementing the United Nations counterterrorism strategy and procedural plans thereof, including the provisions related to support for the rights of various victims of terrorism, such as physical, medical and psychological support, rehabilitation and building resilience, in addition to humanitarian assistance , with special attention placed on the protection of women and girls affected by conflict and terrorism.

In a resolution adopted on June 28, 2019, the General Assembly of the United Nations called for treating victims of terrorism with sympathy and respect for their human dignity, ensuring their right to equality and equity, establishing financial funds for their support, strengthening and expanding their scope and encouraging financial and moral compensation for victims.

The European Union (EU) has adopted specific rules to support victims of terrorism, and issued a directive affirming that victims of terrorism deserve special attention and support at the level of member states and the EU, and requests member states

to create methods to obtain specialized professional support services immediately after terrorist attacks, and that member states take measures and methods to better ensure a meaningful response to emergencies, such as obtaining reliable information to avoid any unbearable suffering for victims of terrorism and their families.

The EU is seeking to establish a center of expertise or a think tanker in support of victims of terrorism, which is a two-year pilot project that provides experts in the field of victims of terrorism with guidelines and training activities aimed at assisting national authorities and victim support organizations to implement the EU regulations relating to victims of terrorism.

On the governmental level, Dr. Swanson reviewed the experiences of some countries in developing legal legislation to compensate victims of terrorism. In Britain, for example, anyone who has sustained a direct injury as a result of a terrorist attack has the right to apply for financial compensation from the Criminal Injury Compensation Authority (CICA). Any British citizen is entitled to financial compensation and psychosocial support if it is proven that such a citizen has been injured as a result of a terrorist attack. Several considerations are factored in when assessing and approving the amount to be commensurate to the injury, including the injuries such a citizen sustained, and the effect of this on his or her ability to carry out his or her work, and on his or her communication with members of his or her family and the like.

The United States of America has strict laws and policies that guarantee the rights

of victims of federal crimes, state-wide crimes and victims of terrorism, and provide them with mandatory services during the judicial process. Federal and state programs allow victims of terrorism to obtain compensation for crime-related expenses, such as the costs of treatment for physical or psychological injuries and the costs of funerals.

As for civil society organizations and charities, Dr. Swanson reviewed its importance in supporting victims of terrorism, and analyzed the experiences of some organizations in this regard, such as the British Red Cross, the Canadian National Service Day Foundation (CNDSF), the Peace Foundation and some others.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dr. Mona Al-Achqar discussed the issue of good practices in support of victims of terrorism within the framework of criminal justice, and referred to the unremitting efforts made by the United Nations in developing a guide to best practices in assisting victims of terrorism within the framework of criminal justice. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a meeting with a number of experts from member states, civil society, and relevant bodies, on November 24 and 25, 2014, to discuss the challenges facing providing support to victims of terrorism and methods of implementation, and came up with a number of productive practices listed below:

- Legal framework and institutional capacities.
- Support for victims of terrorism in investigations and prosecutions.
- Information, privacy and the media.
- Restitution, psychological reparation and financial compensation.
- Enhancing the role of associations of victims and civil society.
- International cooperation.

These practices are based on the principles of respect for the rule of law, human rights and justice to further enhance the capabilities

of the criminal justice system, and protect society from terrorism and associated disastrous and heinous effects on the stability of the individual and society. The practices highlighted the need to strike a balance between the interest of the victim and the integrity of the investigations, as well as the need to build trust between victims and the justice system.

The method adopted for establishing “good practices” is subsumed under a plan based on the “participation of all stakeholders” concerned with the operation of the criminal justice system, ensuring effective protection and more appropriate support for victims of terrorism. This plan often provides a guarantee of the viability of what it provides, as it brings together the decision-makers from the official bodies, influencers, those impacted and the owners of relevant information and expertise. Civil society and a number of concerned bodies have displayed a robust engagement in discussions, meetings and symposia, along with delegates of member states and those officially concerned with achieving justice, such as authorities, public prosecution offices and police chiefs. The experiences of a number of countries in counterterrorism and supporting victims were brought to focus, with access to a number of international and regional legal documents and legislations.

PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICES

Dr. Al-Achqar pointed out the principles of good practices, and emphasized that they are based on a number of legal and human rights principles essential in achieving justice, including, for example, the right to knowledge, the right to justice, the right to access information, the right to observance of privacy, the right to life, the right to equality before the law, the right to transparency and the obligation of the state to protect the rights of citizens. The main goals of these practices are to facilitate access to justice for victims of terrorism, to assert their best interests, to ensure the integrity of the investigation in a way that

contributes to protecting society and to build confidence between victims and the authorities concerned with implementing policies to protect victims of terrorism.

In this context, mention may be made of the report issued by the United Nations which has recommended that the national legislative framework for supporting victims of terrorism within criminal justice should adopt minimum provisions consistent with internationally recognized human rights standards, the rule of law and principles of transparency. Perhaps the most important in these provisions are those ones for ensuring the personal, physical, moral and psychological safety of survivors of terrorism, and ensuring that they are informed of everything related to the cases across all stages.

VICTIM SUPPORT

The experiences of confronting the great danger of terrorism threatening the stability of communities confirm the importance of “supporting victims of terrorism in criminal justice.” Good practices have highlighted a number of aspects that enhance the impact of victims in several areas; the most important of which are participation in trials, contact with the media, and victim support societies. Putting into action the activities of societies that support victims is of great importance, because most of these groups are often created to defend the rights of family members, friends, acquaintances and loved ones who have fallen victim to terrorism, and lost their lives, some limbs or body parts, or they were bitterly traumatized. Often these groups turn to the media in search of government or public support.

Dr. Al-Achqar indicated that the lack of one standard and accurate definition of terrorism is among the gaps facing the application of a successful and feasible approach to supporting victims of terrorism. Practically, good practices are still only non-binding recommendations, and there are no clear ways to ensure their implementation, while neglecting them does not entail any direct penalties. ■



CENTER FOR ANALYSIS OF THE RADICAL RIGHT



The radical right, a political party spreading mainly in Europe, is extremely xenophobic to Muslims, Jews and foreigners, has a strong adherence to national values, political, cultural and linguistic identity and is strongly biased in favor of Christian conservatism.

Radical right terrorism is a threat to democratic communities worldwide. As the number of deaths and the radical right narratives influencing the public opinion are increasingly growing, the radical right has taken a new approach, through the digital publication of radical propaganda and acts of violence to attract new audiences. Therefore, cooperative relations between the government, researchers, and technology companies had to be strengthened

to address the manipulation plans used by these groups.

To this end, the Center for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) was established. CARR is the leading information and knowledge repository on the radical right, past and present. CARR also leads discussion on the development of radical right extremism around the world. It is home to a wealth of experts on the subject-matter in Europe, the US and even beyond. CARR team experts develop blogs, add bibliographic content, provide video blogs and podcasts, while at the same time, they make themselves readily available for media commentary, stakeholder consultation and policy-making. Ever since its inception, CARR emphasizes the public dissemination

of subject-matter insights and research on this resurgent phenomenon. In light of the recent events, understanding the dynamics of radical right groups and individuals has become more significant than ever.

CARR is mainly mandated with analyzing or countering the ideology of radical right extremism, supported by many multi-disciplinary partnerships, practitioners, professionals, programs, projects and initiatives directed at the general public, and to provide a broad forum for discussing critical issues.

CARR includes very rich subject-matter resources, including publications, research, theses, reports, research projects, proposed legislation, book reviews, software, dictionaries, databases, maps, plans and graphs. ■

Periodicals

COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY JOURNAL



The Counterterrorism and International Security Journal addresses global terrorism issues and counterterrorism methods. It is issued by the International Association of counterterrorism and Security Professionals (IACSP), which is the only professional organization that has a strong and developing membership base of security professionals active in counterterrorism worldwide.

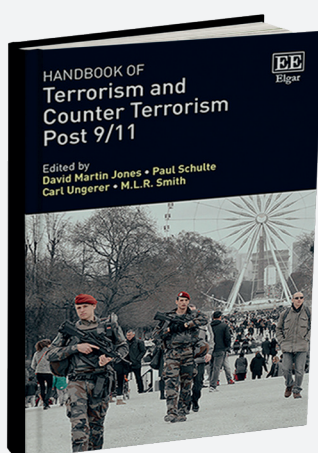
IACSP was founded in 1992 to address security challenges, enhance the culture of societies regarding the threats of terrorism, and develop innovative and effective measures to combat such

ongoing threats. The Journal is the most reliable source of information on terrorism published today; it derives its information from reliable news sources, such as congressman and official television and radio channels and journalists. It is always at the forefront of other journals in conducting analyses and reporting.

The Journal membership is made available to anyone with a professional interest in understanding the security threat posed by terrorism. It has an international network of professionals, specialists, former government officials and students. ■

Link:





Author: David Martin Jones
Paul Schulte
Carl Ungerer,
Michael L. R. Smith

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Link



HANDBOOK OF TERRORISM AND COUNTER TERRORISM POST 9/11

As the 9/11 Attacks spawned a new era in history, a crying need arose to produce the handbook, which provides comprehensive and updated discussions on terrorism and a key reference and comparison of future research, with the aim to understand the changes in the global system and the international war on terror.

A wealth of scholars from Asia, the United States, Europe and the Middle East made amazing efforts for the publication of the Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism Post 9/11 (2019), assessing regional responses to terrorism, new threats spearheaded by cyber warfare, impact of social media, information warfare, violence

of lone wolves, women in terrorism, impact of artificial intelligence, fourth industrial revolution and unmanned aircraft (drones) in future wars.

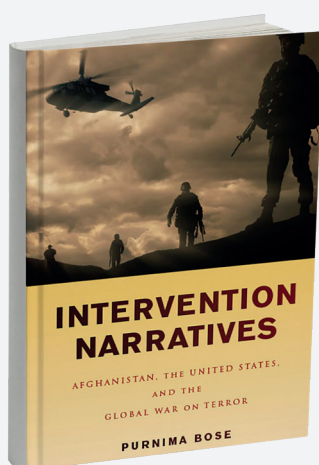
The handbook provides in-depth analyses of terrorism since 2001, as Al-Qaeda and ISIS snowballed into existence, with a critical assessment of different types of counterterrorism; it is an essential reference for all students majoring in terrorism, counterterrorism, political violence, criminology, warfare and conflict studies. The handbook falls into three voluminous parts:

Part One: general themes are discussed, such as overview of terrorism, history of terrorism, root causes and

characteristics, major plans, strategies and trends, and critical contemporary issues, extremism, cyber-terrorism and women in terrorism.

Part Two: local and regional studies on terrorism include main issues and critical issues relating to counterterrorism, main strategies and policies, events and trends, case studies on terrorist groups, major counter-terrorism campaigns pursued and impact and feasibility of the different plans of each country.

Part Three: provides seminal recommendations and conclusions of the plans followed and analyses conducted and state-of-the-art technologies used by terrorist groups in their operations. ■



Author: Purnima Bose

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Link



INTERVENTION NARRATIVES

AFGHANISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES, AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

This book is an investigation into the Twenty-First Century Wars and 'The Culture of War', which is a new series published by Rutgers University Press. It examines the contradictory cultural perspectives of the US intervention in Afghanistan as it sought to justify an imperial foreign policy. The carefully selected narratives showcase Afghans as veteran anti-communist warriors who sustained the consequences of American weakness across the region in the wake of the Cold War. The book highlights the narratives retold by victimized women who can be empowered through some small-sized enterprises, and the terror-

ists who deserve punishment for the 9/11 Attacks.

Purnima Bose highlights the stories narrated by the Americans about the American efforts to extend its influence over Afghanistan. Attention is primarily focused on notes on the individual experiences of Americans in Afghanistan. The main purpose of the intervention narratives was to spell out the activities of Americans in Afghanistan. It meticulously reveals the underbelly of these narratives about America at home and abroad, to substitute politically charged analyses with a realistic political analysis called "Afghanistan", and presenting theses explaining why the stories are inspiring.

The book falls into three chapters: Chapter One discusses the narrative of the early withdrawal; the author blames the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in the 1990s, while deserting Afghan Mujahideen in favor of the Taliban after the expulsion of the Soviet Union. Chapter Two examines the narrative of the western rescue of Afghan women and entrepreneurship by American women who help Afghan women start small businesses.

Chapter Three is a collection of stories on the complex and costly efforts of bringing trained dogs to save and transport pets from Afghanistan to America. ■

CYBER THREATS YOU FACE AND WAYS TO MITIGATE THEM

The **National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)** which is affiliated to the University of Maryland has launched its newest online training course, "Cyber Threats You Face and Ways to Mitigate Them". The course provides a basic introduction to the threat landscape in cyberspace and the cyber threats that all individuals and organizations face, as well as the best mitigation methods. The first part of the course focuses on the development, spread and intensity of cyber threats, as well as the main methods used in carrying out cyber-attacks, such as social engineering and technical exploitation. The second part of the course reviews four notorious cyber incidents, which provide telling

examples of cyber-attacks that contribute to broadening the knowledge of the trainees and help them further explore the strategies used at the level of organizations and individuals that could have mitigated the impact of these attacks.

Upon completion of this online self-training, the trainees will be able to identify the typology and magnitude of cyber threats that the information systems and technical networks may face daily, and to identify the types most relevant to the cyber threats that their organizations constantly face, and to identify potential cyber threat activity. It also helps them to well understand best practices for countering and combating specific cyber threats. ■



Registration is open

START

Link



DEVELOPING NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

November 2-4, 2020

Geneva Center for Security Policy



Link



The **Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)**, an educational center that aims to enhance the capabilities of leaders and provide them with the skills and tools necessary to address all traditional and emerging challenges, in addition to promoting international peace, security and stability, organizes and hosts this training course which provides a unique opportunity for those interested in analyzing the process of formulating strategies for preventing and countering violent extremism. The training course examines the effects of Security Council Resolution 2178 on the participants in developing national plans. It also helps build the global community understanding of the actors active in preventing and countering

violent extremism, and its implications at the national, regional and international levels. The training course also provides an overview of the current global threat of terrorism, with a particular attention attached to the factors of violent extremism and the most viable PVE methods used.

This training course targets professionals working in national ministries and international organizations, individuals and representatives of organizations that implement programs, including community-based organizations concerned with preventing and combating violent extremism, professionals from the private sector, and national officials from countries experiencing manifestations of extremism. ■

COUNTER-TERRORISM CONFERENCE 2020

Terrorism per se is persistently one of the most notorious threats to peace and security in Europe, and the dynamic and evolving nature of violent extremism and terrorism has prompted the countries in the region to strengthen cooperation to meet the increasingly growing challenges of these two phenomena.

In times of crisis, as is the case with the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorist groups seek to exploit people's fear and vulnerability to spread their narratives, and to sow feelings of suspicion and hatred. Hence, it has become imperative for OSCE member states and partners to further explore avenues of cooperation to counter fundamentalism and violent extremism leading to terrorism (VERLT).

The Annual Counterterrorism Conference which will be organized by the OSCE for Security and Cooperation in Europe (virtually and physically) over two running days, aims to gather high-level representatives and subject-matter experts from government agencies, the United Nations and other relevant organizations, the public and private sectors and civil society. The Conference will discuss the following key issues: International Cooperation in Response to Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Extremist Ideology Leading to Terrorism, Building a Wider Community Network to Combat the Manifestations of Violent Extremism and Fundamentalism That Lead to Terrorism. ■



September 14-15, 2020

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

#OSCECTC



OSCE-WIDE COUNTER-TERRORISM CONFERENCE 2020

Effective Partnerships against Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2020
VIENNA, AUSTRIA