



IMCTC Receives H.H Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

On Wednesday, October 25, 2023, IMCTC welcomed His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the State of Kuwait, and he was received by HE Gen. Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, the Chief of the General Staff, and IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, as well as Member States' delegates.

Over the course of the visit, Sheikh Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation received a briefing on IMCTC's mission, strategic initiatives, and its role in coordinating, unifying IMCTC Member States' efforts to help achieving IMCTC strategic goals.

HH Sheikh Al-Sabah commended IMCTC's counter-terrorism approach and strategic initiatives geared to be implemented in collaboration with Member States and other relevant international organization. He further added that the fast and enormous development of IMCTC demonstrates the strong determination of its Member States to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. (To be continued ... page 6)



IMCTC Receives Turkmenistan's Minister of Defense



On Sunday, October 15, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received the Secretary of the State Security Council, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Turkmenistan, Begenç Gündogdyew. Following the reception, IMCTC Secretary General delivered a welcome speech, emphasizing that the world's current exceptional circumstances has resulted in global serious risks and challenges that nearly affect everyone unless we stand up together, (To be continued ... page 7)

IMCTC Receives the Defense Minister of the Republic of Guinea



On Monday, October 23, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received HE, the Defense Minister of the Republic of Guinea Aboubacar Sidiki Camara and his accompanying delegation. They received a briefing on IMCTC's mission, strategic initiatives, and its role in coordinating and unifying IMCTC Member States' efforts to help the Muslim world, as well as the international community in eradicating the scourge of terrorism. The briefing also covered IMCTC's latest reports and statistics regarding the status and activities of terrorist organizations around the world. (To be continued on page 7)



IMCTC HOLDS A PRESENTATION TITLED “NEW MEDIA AND INTELLECTUAL SECURITY: A THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY?”

On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, IMCTC held a presentation titled “New Media and Intellectual Security, Threats and Opportunities” delivered by HH, Pro. Dr. Saad Bin Saud Bin Muhammed Al Saud, dean of the College of Media and Communication at Imam Muhammad Ibin Saud Islamic University. During the presentation, His Highness discussed the impact of new media tools as powerful drivers of intellectual, social, and psychological changes within societies. These tools have made an effective contribution in disseminating information rapidly to the largest possible number of users, predominantly the youth who are sticking to their mobile phones and computers all the time, taking them wherever they go.

As for the influence of new media on the masses, His Highness emphasized that, unlike traditional media, which positioned Arab citizens as mere consumers and passive observers, new media technologies have shifted the balance of power. This transformation has given rise to more interactive spaces with less scrutiny, enabling individuals, especially the youth who extensively use mobile phones and computers, to freely express their opinions without constraints or predefined agendas. Consequently, the power of new media to influence the masses has significantly increased. Assuming that the community's use of these tools is positive; however, for others, it is marred by intellectual instability and a lack of freedom, making it more susceptible to manipulation when employed. This is clearly manifested through the spread of negative information, leading to changes in behaviors that deviate from religious and moral values, as well as inciting discord. Additionally, it leads to crimes such as extortion, defamation, and fostering atheism, ultimately causing societal disruption and disintegration. This emphasizes the urgent need to develop intellectual security and fortify it through a scientific, practical, clear, and stable approach in the minds of individuals within the community, especially in the face of these technological developments.

Further, engaging with the public is no longer restricted to the powerful entities that possess financial, technical, and professional capabilities. Nowadays, many activists, whether being individuals or part of active organizational institutions, working secretly or publicly, possess the ability to tailor their messages to specific audiences, aiming to influence, persuade, or evoke emotions. They also work towards prompting tangible actions that may go beyond

the established norms, regulations, and laws governing the media value system, relying on the freedom of expression provided by new media, the globalization of media, and the speed in seizing available opportunities ahead of others to achieve their objectives.

One of the most significant issues that has been notably observed is the rise of extremism and terrorism, which has become highly active in modern media, surpassing expectations. This reflects the inadequacy of traditional media legislation, which has become outdated and unable to cope with the challenges of the era, especially with the rapid changes in communication technology and its evolving foundations.

Furthermore, these media means have introduced a new method of content creation where citizens no longer need to be journalists. With just a camera-equipped phone, they can effortlessly capture and share events, reaching tens of millions of followers in a matter of seconds. Latest statistics indicate the presence of approximately 4,88 billion users worldwide, representing around 60% of the total global population, are utilizing various new media platforms. One recent study suggests that new media has become the primary tool for dialogue among individuals and nations; hence, intellectual security is intricately connected to national security, ensuring the stability of a state, and safeguarding its unity and beliefs.

As for the role of new media in the spread of terrorism, His Highness added, “There are more than 200 different definitions of terrorism around the world. Essentially, they all converge on three fundamental components that encapsulate these various definitions and concepts of terrorism: the use of violence, pursuit of political objectives, and the instillation of fear among people in the targeted regions.”

Certainly, the media, in its various new forms, plays a role in intellectual security. The relationship between the media and the phenomenon of terrorism represents a double-edged sword. The negative aspect is evident in how terrorist organizations exploit these media channels and their modern applications to spread their ideologies, recruit young individuals, and destabilize the security of nations and communities.

Meanwhile, on the positive side, modern media plays a crucial role in presenting events to the public with all their details. This fosters awareness, and knowledge; and shapes public opinion that condemns terrorist attacks and those responsible for them.

New media in its various forms stands as a primary tool used by electronic terrorist organizations for recruiting and attracting youth. This is especially evident through various messages, given that youth are among the most active users of these applications.

The Global Terrorism Index issued by the United Nations for the year 2023 indicates a decrease in the impact of terrorism compared to the past four years, with a few exceptions. The decline in the number of terrorist operations is attributed to their shift to the virtual world.

Results of a recent Jordanian study in 2022 affirmed that intellectual security is the most effective means in combating extremism.

■ **His Highness pointed out the professional standards in media coverage of terrorist operations, which include:**

- Avoiding the widespread dissemination of data released by terrorist organizations via media and communication channels.
- Evading focus on the personal characteristics of terrorist elements and abstaining from publishing their images.
- Avoiding glorification of terrorists when publishing written statements or broadcasting videos.
- Focusing on the victims of terrorism and their families.
- Highlighting the positive aspects of security operations and their successes.
- Emphasizing the role of citizens in confronting terrorism and reporting applications and electronic accounts that incite terrorism.

His Highness emphasized the necessity for journalists to act responsibly, refraining from promoting or encouraging criminal activities and violating public morals. He stressed the importance of avoiding discrimination or incitement while ensuring the public's right to knowledge and access to complete information. Additionally, he emphasized the defense of freedom of expression and civil liberties, urging against the dissemination of content that violates religions or fuels racial or sectarian tensions.

His Highness also stressed the prohibition of incitement to violence and the publication of information and news that jeopardize the security and safety of the state, while respecting publication bans. There is a commitment to principles of cooperation between nations, justice, peace, and international understanding, as well as respect for values, beliefs, and non-intimidation or threat to the public. Protection of individuals from misleading data and information, and non-disclosure of private secrets of individuals and security entities, is also highlighted.

Further, His Highness described information and perception warfare as wars of 4th and 5th generations, also known as technological wars, or more precisely, wars arising from new media by spreading rumors and lies through new media channels and utilizing advanced technologies to achieve specific goals. In these wars, countries use all available means and tools against the enemy state to weaken it without mobilizing a single soldier. Media, economy, public opinion, and all material and moral tools are employed, even targeting the citizens of the targeted state.

It is considered the most evolved type of warfare, making existing contradictions within society a central focus in its existence. It is expressed as "occupying minds, not lands," by creating extremist groups and organized gangs operating between the economy, politics, and society, contributing to the internal tensions. This war is waged through non-kinetic military actions, such as social engineering, misleading information, and cyber-attacks, in addition to emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. It is referred to as information and perception warfare.

This generation of wars aims to drain the state and expose it to internal conflicts. Various modern technologies are used in these wars, ranging from conventional weapons to electronic and cyber warfare. Other tools may also be employed, such as flooding the country with drugs and fostering social and national problems, contributing to weakening the targeted entity.

Rumors stand out as highly perilous elements in psychological warfare and psychological epidemics, presenting a risk to both intellectual security and the safety of human societies.

Furthermore, the spread of misleading information is one of the critical strategies utilized by new media. It functions as a mechanism in the domain of fourth-generation warfare, manipulating people's minds and steering them away from the truth. This involves executing paid propaganda campaigns to endorse specific ideologies, using fake accounts, and impersonating characteristics of politicians and well-known figures within the state. The aim is to undermine fundamental

societal values, erode trust between the state and individuals, diminish confidence in national symbols, and incite hatred against others.

In another part of the presentation, His Highness addressed an important matter, the anticipated future implications of artificial intelligence programs. He categorized these implications into both positive and negative aspects, just like any phenomenon.

■ **Positive aspects:**

- Reducing human error and facilitates and speeds up the decision-making process, operating continuously.
- Minimizing risks and performs risky tasks for humans, such as defusing bombs, extinguishing fires, and entering volcanoes, etc.
- Using of artificial intelligence in crime analysis has contributed to reducing the time spent on analysis. For example, a recent study using artificial intelligence tools to collect data on financial crimes over a period of 10 years in an Arab city revealed an increase in financial crimes in cold months due to the decrease in temperature and longer night hours.

■ **Negative aspects:**

- Artificial intelligence is expensive in terms of hardware manufacturing and programming.
- Reduction of the workforce, leading to unemployment and an increase in human laziness.
- Absence of emotional dimension and a threat to ethical systems.

His Highness, in addressing the role of new media in enhancing intellectual security, underscored the significance of recent studies highlighting the crucial role of new media in influencing the concept of intellectual security, especially in the era of communications and electronic media, through which the individual is exposed to negative communication and media content that affects his intellectual system, and generates in him extremist ideas and opinions that are alien to his cultural and religious reality.

- **Subsequently, His Highness reviewed the latest studies on the role of new media in promoting intellectual security, stating that the most recent Arab and foreign studies reveal the following:**

1. Through monitoring how electronic newspaper sites address issues of intellectual security, the issue of rumors topped the list as a threat to individuals, especially with the advancements in the field of media and communication. This environment is considered fertile ground for the spread of rumors and misinformation. Secondly, the issue of intellectual extremism was highlighted, emphasizing the seriousness of this matter and the necessity of raising awareness about it.

2. The power of the impact of electronic rumors on the intellectual security of youth, which could lead to a weakening of their sense of belonging to the homeland, reduced motivation for community participation, and a decline in their level of moderation and centrism.

The most prominent types of extremism threatening intellectual security and circulating in new media are as follows: social extremism, malicious rumors, and the incitement of hatred, animosity, and violence among individuals are ranked first, religious extremism is in the second position, and political extremism is in the third position. It is noted that the contradiction between what students learn in educational institutions and what they observe in the media is a significant factor leading to intellectual deviation. The influence of advocates of deviation and their convincing methods, broadcast through electronic platforms that provide them an easy means of communication with an unaware audience, results from the low cultural and educational levels among the audience. This presentation was part of the strategic reinforcement of media efforts against violence and extremism. It aims to develop intellectual, educational, and social strategies that contribute to reinforcing the concept of intellectual security and its impact on society.



On Tuesday, October 31, 2023, a valuable presentation on the Dark Web was delivered by Dr. Feras bin Abdulaziz Al-Jumah, a faculty member at the College of Computer and Information Sciences at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, and who holds a patent in the field of encrypted file protection in the cloud in the conference hall at IMCTC headquarters. This introductory presentation was part of the efforts of the Cybersecurity Administration to enhance the concept of cybersecurity. The presentation demonstrates that Dark Web is a part of the internet that is intentionally hidden and can only be accessed using special software or configurations, such as the Tor Browser. Dark Web is part of the Deep Web that refers to all internet content not indexed by search engines. The Dark Web hosts completely hidden websites that are isolated from the rest of the internet.

Providing a historical overview of the dark web's origin, Dr. Al-Jumah explained that its emergence dates to the 1990s when the United States Navy research laboratory developed it to secure its electronic communications. The well-known encrypted browser, abbreviated as TOR, utilizes multi-layered data transmission software for browsing without revealing the user's identity. It allows access to the dark web, and its first version was released in 2002. TOR gained popularity among individuals seeking privacy protection and avoiding electronic surveillance.

Examples of legitimate uses of the encrypted network, the dark web, include leaked documents from WikiLeaks and ProPublica, and Facebook's presence on Onion network. Dr. Al-Jumah also provided a technical explanation of data transmission via the Internet.

He also explained the feature of sending data via the Internet using the encrypted TOR browser. Regarding the risks of the dark web, Dr. Al-Jumah mentioned that despite some positive aspects

of the dark web, it has a darker side as it attracts criminals and others with malicious intentions.

To address these aspects, specific regulations and laws have been enacted concerning the dark web. Examples of such regulations include laws addressing fraud and computer misuse, laws governing electronic communications privacy, and laws on electronic surveillance in the United States. The challenges and contentious issues arising from the enforcement of these regulations on the dark web encompass concerns about jurisdiction, privacy rights, and ongoing debates surrounding encryption. Therefore, an effective address to these issues necessitates greater international collaboration, involving the establishment of treaties to combat cybercrime and the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Statistical data on the dark web reveals some significant figures. With approximately 2.5 million active users worldwide daily, the United States takes the lead with 34.81% of daily users in 2021, followed by Russia at 11.46% and Germany at 7.16%. Dark web markets achieved an astonishing \$2.1 billion in cryptocurrency transactions in 2021. Notably, drugs constitute the majority of items traded, making up 57% of all products in 2020. Additionally, about 543 million financial assets associated with employees from the top 1000 American companies are found on the dark web, according to Forbes' list.

■ **Dr. Al-Jumah's presentation sheds light on several ways through which criminals leverage the dark web:**

1. Communications: The dark web offers an extra layer of protection, allowing criminals to conceal their identities and locations from law enforcement and adversaries.



2. Financial Gains: Criminals exploit the dark web to trade prohibited goods and services such as drugs, weapons, counterfeit items, and even hire individuals for criminal activities, all in exchange for financial rewards.

3. Lack of Content Regulation Mechanism: The absence of content regulation mechanisms creates a platform for criminals to communicate and collaborate, enabling the exchange of information, tricks, methods, and criminal resources.

4. Recruitment: Users on the dark web can express opinions and perspectives that might face censorship or legal consequences in the open internet or society, providing a space for recruitment and collaboration among like-minded individuals.

Following this discussion, Dr. Al-Jumah presented historical examples of such sites, including the Silk Road, AlphaBay, and the subsequent shutdown of AlphaBay.

In his presentation, Dr. Al-Jumah introduced the Tails operating system as a mobile OS crafted to offer defense against electronic surveillance and control. It leverages TOR network for internet access and features a suite of applications for secure document handling and communication. Tails comes equipped with the Pidgin platform for instant messaging, supporting multiple protocols such as XMPP, IRC, and SIP. Pidgin platform enables users to make online voice calls via TOR network, utilizing additional software like Jitsi or Linphone.

- The Onion Network Phone is an application specifically crafted for making voice calls via TOR network.
- It can be seamlessly integrated as a VOIP extension into TorChat messaging programs.
- When initiating a call, it is directed to the recipient's Onion

network address.

- Onion network phone provides a high level of encryption for financial transactions and identity verification.
- The call recipient can verify the sender's identity based on their Onion Network address, based on the sender's permission.

As for the Hidden Wiki's historical significance, it stands out as one of the oldest and most well-known directories on the dark web. It serves as a hub, offering links to diverse categories within the Onion network.

Markets: Providing links to various dark web markets dealing in drugs, weapons, counterfeit currencies, etc.

Services: Featuring links to an array of services on the dark web, including hacking, forgery, and assassination services.

Whistleblowing: Supplying links to dark web platforms for leaking and uncovering secrets, such as WikiLeaks and Secure Drop etc.

These platforms allow users to report information or activities that are considered non-compliant with established systems.

Forums: Links to various discussion or support forums, such as Dread, The Hub, and more.

Following that, Dr. Al-Jumah addressed secure email services on the Dark Web, categorizing them as different systems, including:

1. Proton Mail: A secure email service.
2. Mail2Tor: An encrypted email service on the TOR network.
3. TOR BOX: A service providing secure email through TOR.
4. ELUDE: An application that facilitates encrypted communication.

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Over the course of the visit, Sheikh Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation received a briefing on IMCTC's mission, strategic initiatives, and its role in coordinating, unifying IMCTC Member States' efforts to help achieving IMCTC strategic goals.

HH Sheikh Al-Sabah commended IMCTC's counter-terrorism approach and strategic initiatives geared to be implemented in collaboration with Member States and other relevant international organization. He further added that the fast and enormous development of IMCTC demonstrates the strong determination of its Member States to eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi expressed his appreciation for the visit of HH Sheikh Al-Sabah, commending the crucial role of the brotherly state of Kuwait in countering terrorism, extremism, and its firm stance against those who seek to undermine the

homeland and its unity. He added the State of Kuwait, as a member of IMCTC since its inception, and its regional and international participation in eradicating the scourge clearly demonstrates the far-sightedness of the Kuwaiti leadership that spares no efforts in maintaining international peace and security. Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi also commended the generous support of leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to IMCTC in helping it realize its mission in eradicating the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism.



IMCTC Receives Turkmenistan's Minister of Defense



On Sunday, October 15, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received the Secretary of the State Security Council, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Turkmenistan, Begenç Gündogdyýew. Following the reception, IMCTC Secretary General delivered a welcome speech, emphasizing that the world's current exceptional circumstances has resulted in global serious risks and challenges that nearly affect everyone unless we stand up together to prevent being exploited by terrorist

groups. Al-Moghedi added that IMCTC is dedicated to combating terrorism while respecting the sovereignty of states, and that IMCTC strategy involves coordinating, unifying, and supporting intellectual and media efforts, addressing terrorism financing, and providing efficient military support to Member States. He also pointed out that IMCTC looks forward to seeing Turkmenistan joining the Coalition and actively participate in its activities. For his part, Begenç Gündogdyýew expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's speech. He also discussed bilateral relations and recognized terrorism as an unfavorable global phenomenon that has inflicted all countries. Gündogdyýew commended IMCTC's efforts in combating terrorism across various domains. Gündogdyýew and his accompanying delegation were then brought up to speed on IMCTC's activities, followed by a tour at IMCTC's premises. During the tour, they were briefed on IMCTC's efforts in tracking and monitoring operations. Gündogdyýew also visited several missions of IMCTC's Member States, where he was informed about the ongoing work conducted by them within IMCTC.

IMCTC Receives the Defense Minister of the Republic of Guinea



On Monday, October 23, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received HE, the Defense Minister of the Republic of Guinea Aboubacar Sidiki Camara and his accompanying delegation. They received a briefing on IMCTC's mission, strategic initiatives, and its role in coordinating and unifying IMCTC Member States' efforts to help the Muslim world, as well as the international community in eradicating the scourge of terrorism. The briefing also covered IMCTC's latest reports and statistics regarding the status and activities of terrorist organizations around the world.

Meanwhile, Minister Camara commended IMCTC, expressing a keen interest in cooperating with it. He also lauded IMCTC's initiatives and highlighted the establishment of a dedicated unit for countering terrorism in collaboration with neighboring countries. Additionally, Camara noted Guinea's proactive stance in seizing opportunities to combat terrorism. His Excellency also pointed out the presence of Guinean forces in Mali, emphasizing their role in the fight against terrorism and cooperation in safeguarding



the region against terrorist threats. He also stressed that all recommendations from IMCTC would be effectively implemented. Minister Camara stressed that Guinea has dedicated a whole decade to fight terrorism alongside Mali, and affirmed that the Islamic religion stands for peace, tolerance, and security, completely disassociating itself from the crimes committed by terrorists for their selfish motives. In conclusion, he reiterated his gratitude and appreciation to IMCTC for its warm welcome and well-organized efforts.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi commended Guinea's counterterrorism efforts and its membership in multiple counterterrorism organizations, centers around the world and extended an invitation to Guinea to send its delegates to IMCTC headquarters to work together with the rest of fellow Member States' delegates to counter the menace of terrorism.

A PRESENTATION ON FORWARD-LOOKING COUNTER-TERRORISM VISION



On Wednesday, October 1, 2023, a presentation titled "Forward-Looking Counter-Terrorism Vision" delivered by Dr. Yahya bin Mohammed Abu Maghayedh, was held in the Cultural Activity Hall in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, Member States' Delegates and IMCTC personnel.

During the presentation, Dr. Abu Maghayedh explored the evolution and characteristics of terrorism and the strategic trends. He also addressed the strategic aspects of dealing with events, counter-terrorism strategic planning models, and the international forward-looking framework for counterterrorism models. He also pointed out the steps forward that are taken by multilateral counter-terrorism organizations.

As for the development of violent extremist ideologies of terrorism, Dr. Abu Maghayedh explained the following:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) terrorism.
- Cyberspace terrorism.
- Individual terrorism.
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)
- Al-Qaida organization

Dr. Abu Maghayedh addressed the points above in terms of ideology, growth, expansion, concentration, and authority (or leadership).

• Violence Tools Deployed by Terrorist Organizations

Dr. Abu Maghayedh also discussed the tools of violence deployed by organizations, including individual conventional weapons (e.g. rifles and pistols, explosives, and similar weapons), portable conventional weapons (e.g., gun equipped vehicles and anti-air vehicles), non-conventional weapons or ABCs (atomic, biological, and chemical weapons), and remote targeting using electronic means and self-guided mechanisms. He also touched upon tactics such as participation in traditional warfare, destructive or suicidal attacks targeting critical facilities, and various activities, including transportation, gatherings, specific facilities, social structures,

and supply chains. The utilization of remote targeting and the creation of cyber battle arenas were also addressed.

Dr. Abu Maghayedh further discussed the means adopted by terrorist organizations, including meetings, books, tapes, the Internet and cyberspace, as well as the unlimited potential of technological generations, which are all fueled by motivation and behavior, along with the fact that joining such terrorist groups can also be carried by actual recruitment, remotely, or via online mediums.

Following that, Dr. Abu Maghayedh summarized the ten known characteristics of crimes of terrorism and intellectual extremism as follows:

1. Cumulative Event: Such crimes are not abrupt events, rather they are a cumulative event with multiple complex depths.
2. Ideological Convictions: Participation in such crimes depends on ideological convictions.
3. Organization and Competitiveness: Terrorist groups have capabilities in the field of organization and resource management in addition to high competitiveness.
4. Conflict of Interest: Terrorist crimes are linked to the conflict of interest theory.
5. Linked Crimes: Terrorism feeds on other crimes, especially organized ones.
6. Using the Available Means: Terrorist organizations seek to benefit from human capabilities and innovations.
7. Youthfulness: Formation of terrorist organizations includes young people as their primary assets.
8. Community Incubator: Community sympathy or support for terrorist organizations is a decisive factor in their emergence and survival, as well as their ability and extent of influence and expansion.
9. Organizational Cohesion Standards: Terrorist organizations set their own standards that contribute to increasing their ability to

control and flexibility.

10. Influential Propaganda: Using multiple, attractive, and effective propaganda methods.

Pertaining to the strategic aspects of dealing with events, Dr. Abu Maghayedh added:

First: Evolution trend for terrorist organizations.

Second: The ten known characteristics of terrorist organizations.

As a result:

• Determinants for dealing with organizations are:

1. Mass base.
2. Acquiring capabilities.

Such determinants reflect the same concept as seen in the host and disease cases.

- Consequently, the importance of action goes beyond 'mowing-the-grass' policy.
- It is then necessary to rearrange expectations, establish priorities, and manage the results with utmost care.
- This calls for several questions, the most prominent of which are:

Are there any specific future perspectives? What is the expected spread of such events? What are the factors that would back extremism? What are the potential impacts of this?

Further, if this means working under conditions of uncertainty or incomplete certainty, can it be managed? And how? What should be used: databases, analyses, scenario development, implementation, or evaluation?

In the second part of his presentation, Dr. Abu Maghayedh also addressed the strategic aspects of dealing with events, discussing the five principles of Mintzberg's Strategic Management (5 Ps):

1. Strategy as a Plan: Strategy is considered an activity aimed at dealing with various situations, with two essential characteristics of the plan; (1) it is prepared before the targeted activities, and (2) it is developed to achieve a specific purpose.
2. Strategy as a Ploy: Strategy involves specific moves to attempt deceiving opponents or competitors. It relies on cunning and deceit, which are fundamental to maneuvering and misleading competitors.
3. Strategy as a Pattern: Strategy presents a specific flow in activities and operations directed toward a goal. This makes it an intentional organizational intervention based on collective learning and decision-sharing.
4. Strategy as a Position: It seeks to achieve a specific goal, with the

organization positions itself in a way that allows it to outperform competitors by focusing on specific products and services. This results in a stronger connection with the environment.

5. Strategy as a Perspective: It reflects the overall vision of the organization's future and the employees' perception of the future activities and tasks of the organization. It takes the form of a strategy that achieves specific future goals based on values, behaviors, and a prevailing organizational culture.

Dr. Abu Maghayedh also emphasized that the applications of strategic management can be practiced in countries affected by the phenomenon of terrorism through two main approaches:

• A Bird's Approach:

This involves employing strategic management processes by observing, studying, and analyzing the external environment. The objective is to identify optimal opportunities arising from various inputs and alternatives.

• A Squirrel's Approach:

This approach is grounded in strategic practice through examining and analyzing the internal environment. Such analysis serves as a starting point for strategic thinking, drawing on existing skills, experiences, and resources.

In conclusion, Dr. Abu Maghayedh stated several steps for multilateral counter-terrorism organizations, including:

1. Stressing the ongoing efforts within the forward-looking framework, which unveils the direction of the evolution of violence and terrorism.
2. Building a roadmap to enhance the implementation of strategic management in dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism.
3. Developing self-capacities in the field of strategic foresight.
4. Investing in a motivating work environment to deepen the integration of capabilities among multiple parties.
5. Focusing on the strategic work ahead of the actions of extremist organizations.
6. Highlighting the importance of adopting best practices from international entities dealing with extremist organizations.

In this regard, Dr. Abu Maghayedh pointed out that international organizations can conduct a comparative analysis with IMCTC as an organization with strategic dimensions.

Since IMCTC, as an international organization, embodies a strategic foresight vision, international organizations can definitely leverage and learn from the previously mentioned steps to their best interests.



IMCTC Receives the Regional Director and Representative of UNODC



Regional Director and Representative of the United Nations Office, Judge Dr. Hatem Aly, expressed his delight at achieving the greatest benefit for many of the IMCTC's 42 Member States. He added that this is a significant goal and an essential part of the core work of the regional office of the United Nations through necessary laws and legislation, counter-terrorism messages, prevention, and awareness efforts. He also noted that we have many tasks that fall within the domain of IMCTC's missions. Those statements were made during the visit of Dr. Hatem Aly where he was received by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Over the course of the visit, Dr. Aly received a briefing about IMCTC, toured various parts of IMCTC's headquarters, and met with a number of IMCTC's Member States' delegates.

Dr. Hatem Aly also listened to a detailed explanation in the Situation Room. This visit was part of the IMCTC's mission to build bridges of communication with influential international organizations, including countering terrorism financing. For his part, IMCTC Secretary-General emphasized that the Coalition looks forward to signing a memorandum of understanding, enabling the exchange of interests and expertise, with a number of countries share the same goal to enhance their systems related to counterterrorism. Dr. Hatem Aly also stated that, as the General Secretariat of the agreements, they collaborate with all partners within their operational scope and through authorizing the United Nations to combat piracy by working with military sectors, including border guards, ports, and military forces. Support is also provided for leadership, coordination, and capacity-building to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations' global counterterrorism strategy and taking practical steps to prevent and combat terrorism. Terrorists target vulnerable points in border infrastructure, and our role is to contribute to the application of international standards and modern integrated best practices that help manage borders to prevent terrorist and illicit trafficking. Furthermore, he added that he looks forward to establishing a database collaboratively with participating nations, enabling mutual service, and enhancing joint efforts. His Excellency concluded by expressing his delight with IMCTC's partnership with the United Nations, considering it a significant and valuable add.

IMCTC Receives a Delegation from the Republic of Senegal



On Wednesday, October 4, 2023, IMCTC received Delegate of the Republic of Senegal as Col. Suba Balde assumed his duties. IMCTC Secretary-General expressed his delight at the delegate of the Republic of Senegal joining IMCTC. IMCTC was established under the wise leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and operates under the supervision and support of the IMCTC Council of Defense

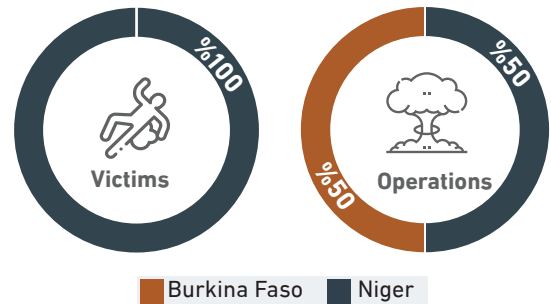
Ministers, which represents 42 states, along with close partnerships with several countries worldwide to confront the phenomenon of terrorism. IMCTC Secretary-General also wished Col. Balde success in his mission, emphasizing the significant role entrusted to the delegates of the Member States in achieving IMCTC's goals and strategic initiatives to combat terrorism.

Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during Oct. 2023

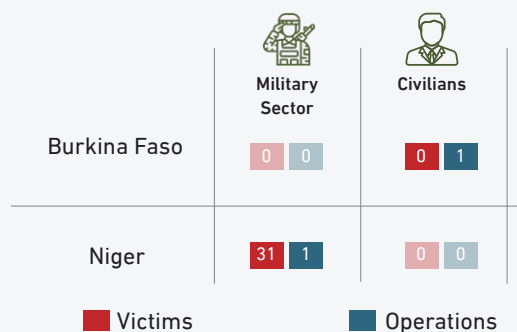


During October 2023, the G5 Sahel Countries had a decrease of 86% in the number of terrorist operations, and a decrease of 90% in the total number of victims (including deaths and injuries) compared to September 2023.

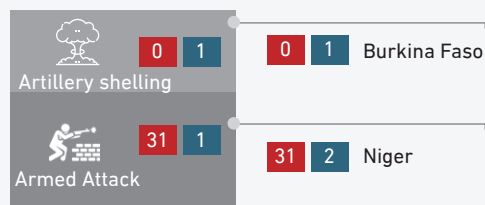
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023
Niger	2	↓ 1	64	↓ 31
Burkina Faso	5	↓ 1	124	↓ 0
Mali	7	↓ 0	118	↓ 0
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	14	↓ 2	306	↓ 31



Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks



Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso:** The government of Burkina Faso has signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of a nuclear power plant to cover the energy needs of the population, where less than a quarter currently has access to electricity.
- **Mali:** Tuareg rebels in northern Mali have announced the seizure of the Bamba military base from the army following fighting in the northern part of the country. The attack by Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) on Bamba military base came in the wake of assaults targeting military bases in Leré, Dioura, and Borey.
- **Niger:** France has announced the commencement of the withdrawal of its military forces from Niger. An official source indicat-

ed that the security situation in Niger has deteriorated in recent days.

- **Chad:** French President discusses with his Chadian counterpart the withdrawal of French military forces from Niger. According to a statement from the French Presidency, the two presidents also discussed the progress of the political transition in Chad, in addition to other regional issues.
- **Mauritania:** The Mauritanian Prosecutor requested a 20-year prison sentence for the former president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. The former president contends that he is facing political persecution through the legal system in his country.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE DELEGATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL



IMCTC Secretary-General has presented IMCTC Decoration to the delegate of the Republic of Senegal, represented by Maj. Gen. Abdullah Angoulin, in appreciation of his efforts during his delegate assignment at IMCTC that ended on Monday, October 9, 2023. The ceremony was held in implementation of the order issued by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers, to award IMCTC Decoration to all delegates of Member States at the end of their assignment at IMCTC, along with the decoration certificate.



IMCTC Congratulates Member States on Their National Days

IMCTC congratulated the Republic of Nigeria on the 63rd anniversary of its Independence Day, on October 01, 2023. IMCTC also congratulated the Republic of Guinea on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of its Independence Day, on October 2, 2023. IMCTC also congratulated Republic of Uganda on the 61st anniversary of its Independence Day, on October 09, 2023. IMCTC also congratulated the Republic of Turkey on its Republic Day on October 29, 2023. IMCTC wished all of the countries and their people more security and prosperity. It is customary for countries and their people to celebrate their national days since these occasions have a great impact in strengthening loyalty and patriotism.