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Prevention of the recruitment of terrorist groups by physical and mass media to members of the vulnerable society.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566, signed in 2004, condemned terrorist actions as:

“Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similarnature”

After the attack performed on September 11th, 2001, which caused the deaths of more than 3,000 people, making it the deadliest act in history. Chaos similar to this has skyrocketed in muslim countries, with 25% of all belligerent acts perpetrated from 2001 to 2008 being on Iraq only. (Roser, M., Nagdy, M., 2014)

This trend has continued, as of 2015 the top 10 most attacked countries are Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Somalia, India, Yemen, Libya, Nigeria and the Philippines, with most of the countries being of muslim ideologies.

According to (START, 2016) since 1970, there have been as many as 156,772 violent acts worldwide, reaching its highest in 2014, when approximately 16,800 attacks were performed.

And according to (Statista, 2015), from 2009 to 2015 there have been 11,774 attacks, resulting in 28,328 casualties around the world

with Iraq suffering of the most violent acts with 2,418 of them and the most amount of victims, with 6,932.

According to (Taylor, 2002) Coordinator for Counterterrorism for the U.S. Department of State, after the events of 9/11, at least 200,000 people lost their jobs, airlines across the globe lost as much as \$15 billion dollars due to fear from travellers to use their services, New York City reported losses of \$3.4 billion dollars on lost sales and lost rent by 2003 and the world's insurance industry took a hit of \$50 billion dollars, mostly paid by citizens' taxes.

And (Ross, 2016) stated the five main aspects of economy that belic conflict affects, the first one being direct physical damage to plants, machines, transportation systems, workers and other economic resources. Mass attacks like the ones lived on the United States in 2001 are able to disrupt the economy by billions of dollars and relentlessly take the lives of thousands of active workers.

Secondly, financial uncertainty comes as a result of recent violent acts, markets plummeted after the events on 9/11, and stock markets did not recover until late in 2003. However, after the disturbances on France in 2015, markets did not suffer from a big drop. Additionally, in the rear of the Nice attack of 2016, global markets took no serious affection, proving that global economy is becoming resilient to those kinds of incidents.

Nonetheless, in the wake of these radical acts, France became a risky bet for global investors, as chaos could happen at any time, giving uncertainty to businesses and forcing corporations to invest elsewhere, damaging the french economy.

Some other economic areas that are heavily troubled by international disturbances are insurance and tourism. Since not all of the insurance plans provide coverage on belligerent acts overseas, it is certainly a concern for insurance companies, who risk more assets by offering protection against ever more likely acts.

On the other hand, tourism is densely distressed by belic conflict, since it scares the potential travellers that may have arrived to that territory. For example, in France, tourism accounts for 8% of their GDP, and posteriorly to the disturbances perpetrated in 2016, tourism dropped an astonishing 30%.

Moreover, during times of belic conflict local businesses get affected, as it has been proven that in order for citizens to obtain security they are more likely to give away financial and political freedoms to their governments, resulting in tax increases, higher government deficits and higher inflation.

Weimann ,(2015) says that roughly 90 percent of all online extremist activities take place in social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Reddit to name a few. In these social media networks, users can show their interest in extremist websites, watch propaganda videos, or participate in extremist discussions.

Other massive diffusion media have also been used by radical groups to reach a broader Western audience. Inspire, the al-Qaeda online magazine, was first published in 2010. Several editions of Inspire provide detailed instructions on how to plan and execute bomb attacks, which have been tested by individuals or groups acting on behalf of thegroup.

Finally, chaos provokes political instability as seen recently in the United States and the United Kingdom, where anti-globalization and anti-immigrants politics have carried the United Kingdom out of the European Union, causing economic uncertainty for the eurozone and the world, on a long term.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to (Roberts, 2002) the origins of the word terrorism can be traced back to the French Revolution in 1789. He states that during the first years of the new government in Paris, it imposed its radical new law over reluctant citizens and as so the first definition of terrorism was recorded by the Académie Française in 1798 as “system or rule of terror”

As of the 19th century, the concept of terrorism had taken a decisive turn, coming to be associated with non-governmental groups rather than governmental oppression and violence.

One of those groups was the small band of Russian revolutionaries of ‘Narodnaya Volya’ (the people’s will) in 1878-81, striking with bombs and bullets indiscriminately, their efforts ultimately culminated in the assassination of Tsar Alexander II on 13 March 1881.

Decades on, belligerent attacks (As shall be named throughout this document) prevailed to be associated with assassinations of political leaders, an example of this was the killing of the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand by a 19-year-old Bosnian Serb student, Gavrilo Princip, in Sarajevo on the 28th of June, 1914. The consequences of his acts were far more severe than what its terrorist group had expected, triggering the First World War.

Since then, belligerent attacks have been used to further political causes. After World War Two, anti-colonialist movements realized the power these mobilizations had on global affairs and how they could achieve their means by causing fear.

Those attacks evolved in European colonies in the 1950’s from assassination of political leaders and public figures to more broadened crimes with two main purposes: either put pressure on the European potencies such as Britain, the Netherlands and France or to subtly persuade and intimidate indigenous population to support a particular group’s claims of leadership when the colonies were granted independence with mixed results as was the case of the independence of India which was achieved pacifically and in Malaya, Britain suppressed any efforts for independence by heavy military movements and political reforms.

However, hostilities did not end with the dissolution of European Empires in the 1960's, as in South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America there were murders of policemen and local officials, hostage-takings, hijackings of aircraft, and bombings of buildings. Civilians became prime targets over time. In some cases governments even became involved in supporting those attacks, almost always so evident as to be deniable. Not only terrorist acts were fueled by socialist and nationalist revolutionary feelings, but also by some religious doctrines.

In the 1970's, terror acts scaled up when Palestinian terrorist hijacked aircrafts and crashed them on Israel, this desire to kill was confirmed when in 1972 Israelis were murdered in the Olympic Games in Munich, justified by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in Palestine, which started in 1967.

Moving forward, in the 1990's a new terrorist face emerged in the form of Osama Bin Laden, leader of a small radicalist group which had extremist religious ideas, disagreement with Arab regimes, hostility towards to the United States and overall insensitivity to the terrorist attacks committed by their members. Having previously supported the Afghanistan liberation from the Soviets, they now developed the rejection of western powers in Africa, bombing dozens of U.S. embassies across the continent in 1998, killing hundreds.

Here was a new kind of terrorist movement that had a cause, and a network, that was not limited to any one state, and whose followers were willing to commit suicide if they could thereby inflict damage and destruction on their adversaries, as they did on September 11, 2001.

Starting in a nationalist cause, it is then used in wreaking havoc to the resulting government. Once created to cleanse society of corruption and external control, it continues in support of the drug trade and prostitution networks across their lands. If violence becomes a habit, its net effect can be to prevent economic development, to provide a justification for official violence, and to perpetuate existing patterns of dominance and submission.

CURRENT RELEVANCE

The history of Internet goes back to the 1980's when this electronic tool became famous among society for its dynamical means of communication, proving to be a useful mechanism to connect people from all over the world in one simple network. However, this tool like other man made tools, has evolved into a dangerous mean of communication, because of its enormous range internet can also serve as a way of promoting and support acts of belligerent attacks.

Over the past 20 years, radical groups' online presence has grown from a dozen websites to nearly 10,000. At the turn of the century, virtually every group had established a presence online. By 2003, the number of known extremist group websites had grown to over 2,600. In 2013, the groups and their supporters managed more than 9,600 sites online.

With the increasing use and advancement of technology, the extremists' use of such as a mean of communication rises as well. We are currently facing a wide-ranging reach of extremist groups' influence among people, including members of vulnerable societies. However, online radicalization reaches not only vulnerable members, in fact, the demographics vary widely. Financial status is no indicator, as radicalization is present in all economic classes. Researches have concluded that the common denominator seems to be that those recruited through media feels sympathetic towards the group's cause. Radicalization is also prevalent in conditions of inequality and where political disagreementsexist.

According to specialist in the topic, Internet now includes 6 different aims that support radicalized groups; these include recruitment, radicalization, financing, training, planning, executing and planning of cyber attacks. Recruiting online has proven to be a more effective and overall better mean of communication. It is thanks to the Internet that belligerent groups can reach out to a vast audience without the need of traveling and at an incredibly low cost.

Catherine Theohary and John Rollins, from the Congressional Research Service, argue that extremist groups use social media to tailor recruiting messages toward specific audiences. To

spread propaganda, violent extremist groups collect social media information on popular topics or individual users. Gabriel Weimann says that 90 percent of all online extremist activities take place within social media networks. In these social media networks, users can show their interest in extremist websites, watch propaganda videos, or participate in extremist discussions.

Online magazines have become a popular platform for al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. Inspire, the al-Qaeda online magazine, was first published in 2010, and it is now being published in English to reach a greater Western audience. Several editions of Inspire provide detailed instructions on how to plan and execute bomb attacks, which have been tested by individuals or groups acting on behalf of AQAP¹. Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the brothers who committed the terrorist bombings at the 2013 Boston Marathon, used homemade bombs, using a recipe they obtained from Inspiremagazine.

In 2010, approximately 750 Anwar al-Awlaki videos were posted on YouTube. These videos contained violent themes and inflammatory rhetoric. Online viewers watched these 750 videos 3.5 million times before accounts that hosted the videos were disabled. Before the videos were removed from YouTube, Major Nidal Hasan, a U.S. Army officer, reportedly watched several videos and corresponded with Al-Awlaki prior to killing 13 people and injuring several others in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting.

Just as violent extremist groups have expanded recruiting efforts into blogs, social media, and other new media technologies, they have incorporated online games into their recruiting strategies. By developing games with a cinematic appeal and narrative that requires players to cooperatively overcome tough obstacles, violent extremist groups attempt to tap into the vast numbers of people playing games online and potentially establish an online relationship with gamers that can potentially metastasize through social media or other new media technologies. Recently, ISIL² adapted the most popular video game of 2012, Grand Theft

1 AQAP: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, formed in 2009 through a merge between two regional offshoots from the international jihadist network in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, according to U.S. officials this is “the most active operational franchise”. (BBC News, Profile: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula)

2 ISIL: Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), formed in 2003 during the Iraq war, then during 2014, after conquering two major Iraqi cities, they declared such territory a caliphate with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as the caliph. (Encyclopedia Britannica, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant)

Auto, creating a game where players can role-play as members of ISIL engaged in combat. The game includes features such as militants killing law enforcement officers and attacking military convoys with explosives.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

European Union against belligerent attacks

According to the official European Union strategy against terrorism, (2017): Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in Europe. It poses a threat to security, to the values of democratic societies and to the rights and freedoms of European citizens. Between 2009-2013 there were 1,010 failed, foiled or completed attacks carried out in EU member states, in which 38 people died. In addition, several European citizens have been kidnapped or killed by terrorist groups around the world. The phenomenon of fighters from Europe travelling to different locations to fight the jihad, and the security threat they may pose inside the EU when they return, are also likely to persist in the coming years.

The EU counter-terrorism strategy aims to combat those attacks globally while respecting human rights, and to make Europe safer, allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice.

The European Union member states are committed to jointly fighting radicalized groups and providing for the best possible protection for its citizens. To this end, in 2005 the Council adopted the EU counter-terrorism strategy.

The strategy is focused on four main pillars: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. Through these pillars, the strategy recognises the importance of cooperation with third countries and international institutions.

Prevent

One of the EU priorities in the field of counter-terrorism is to identify and tackle the factors which contribute to radicalization and the processes by which individuals are recruited to commit acts of terror. To this end the Council adopted an EU strategy for combating radicalization and recruitment to radicalized groups. In light of evolving trends, such as the phenomena of lone actors and foreign fighters or the growing potential of social media for mobilization and communication, the Council adopted a revision of this strategy in June

2014.

In December 2014, justice and home affairs ministers adopted a series of guidelines for the revised EU radicalization and recruitment strategy. These guidelines set out a series of measures to be implemented by the EU and member states.

Protect

The second priority of the EU counter-terrorism strategy is the protection of citizens, infrastructure and the reduction of vulnerability to attack. This includes the protection of external borders, the improvement of transport security, the protection of strategic targets and the reduction of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure. In this area, the EU is currently working on legislation regulating the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data for law enforcement purposes.

Pursue

The EU is working to hinder terrorists' capacity to plan and organise, and to bring these terrorists to justice. To achieve these goals, the EU has focused on strengthening national capabilities, improving practical cooperation and information exchange between police and judicial authorities (in particular through Europol and Eurojust), tackling terrorist financing and depriving terrorists of the means by which they mount attacks and communicate.

In May 2015, the Council and the European Parliament adopted new rules to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

Respond

The fourth objective of the EU counter-terrorism strategy is to prepare, in the spirit of solidarity, to manage and minimise the consequences of a terrorist attack. This is done by improving capabilities to deal with the aftermath, the coordination of the response, and the needs of victims. Priorities in this area include the development of EU crisis coordination arrangements, the revision of the civil protection mechanism, the development of risk assessment or the sharing of best practices on assistance to victims of hostile attacks.

Priorities in recent years have included:

The definition of the arrangements for the implementation by the EU of the solidarity clause, through a Council decision adopted in June 2014

The review of the EU emergency and crisis coordination arrangements, replaced by the EU integrated political crisis response arrangements (IPCR) in June 2013

The revision of the EU civil protection legislation at the end of 2013
Engagement with international partners

The security of the European Union is closely linked with the developments in other countries, particularly in the neighbouring states, and so the EU counter-terrorism strategy needs to be on a global scale.

In the strategic guidelines for justice and home affairs, adopted in June 2014, the European Council called for an effective counter-terrorism policy, which integrates the internal and external aspects. On the 12th of February 2015, the EU heads of state and government stressed the importance for the EU of engaging more with third countries on security issues and counter-terrorism.

In the relations between the EU and third countries, the counter-terrorism agenda is present in many ways, through high level political dialogues, the adoption of cooperation clauses and agreements, or specific assistance and capacity building projects with strategic countries. The EU cooperates on counter-terrorism with countries in the Western Balkans, the Sahel, North Africa, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and North America, as well as in Asia. Cooperation with the US is a fundamental component of the EU's strategy. In recent years, cooperation agreements have been reached in areas such as the financing of radicalized groups, transport and borders, mutual legal assistance or extradition. US authorities are working more and more closely with Europol³ and Eurojust⁴.

Another important part of the external dimension of the fight against belligerent groups involves working closely with other international and regional organizations to build

³ Europol: The European Union's law enforcement agency. Their main goal is to protect the EU (28 member states to be exact) in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism. They also work with some non-EU partner states and international organisations. (Europol's Official website, About Europol)

⁴ Eurojust: The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit, helps national authorities cooperate to combat serious organised crimes involving more than one EU country. (European Union official website, The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit)

international consensus and promote international standards for fighting hostile groups. The European Union works with international organizations including the UN and the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE⁵, the League of Arab States or the Organization for Islamic Cooperation.

As part of its cooperation with the UN, and following a number of UN Security Council resolutions, the EU has adopted certain restrictive measures against persons or entities associated with the Al-Qaeda network.

⁵ OSCE: Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, is a forum for political dialogue on a wide range of security and a platform for joint action to improve the lives of individuals and communities. (OSCE official website, Who we are: OSCE)

U.N. Actions

According to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1,267 (1999), 1,989 (2011) and 2,253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities (hereafter "the Committee") oversees the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council.

The members of the Committee are required to take measures on with respect to ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them, such as an assets freeze in which all states are required to freeze the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals or entities.

The members are also required to impose a travel ban in which members are required to deny the entrance into or transit through their territories by designated individuals. Furthermore, the states are meant to impose an arms embargo through which they must prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale and transfer from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, spare parts, and technical advice, assistance, or training related to military activities, to designated individuals and entities.

The Committee is mandated to:

- Oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures.
- Designate individuals and entities who meet the listing criteria set out in the relevant resolutions.
- Consider and decide upon notifications and requests for exemptions from the sanctions measures.
- Consider and decide upon requests to remove a name from the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List

- Conduct periodic and specialised reviews of the entries on the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List
- Examine the reports presented by the Monitoring Team
- Report annually to the Security Council on the implementation of the sanction measures
- Conduct outreach activities

The Committee was initially established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), which imposed a limited air embargo and assets freeze on the Taliban. Over time, the regime evolved and the measures became a targeted assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities.

On 17 June 2011, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011). With the adoption of

these resolutions, the Security Council decided that the list of individuals and entities subject to the measures would be split in two. The Committee was then known as the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, meant to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. A separate Committee was established according to resolution 1988 (2011) to supervise the implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan.

On 17 December 2015, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2253 (2015). With the adoption of this resolution, the Security Council decided to expand the listing criteria to include individuals and entities supporting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The resolution also directs the Monitoring Team to submit reports on the global threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. Member States are encouraged to (a) designate national focal points on issues related to the implementation of the measures described in the resolution, and (b) report to the Committee on obstacles to the implementation of the measures described in the resolution; also, calls upon all States to submit an updated report to the Committee no later than 120 days from the adoption of the resolution. The mandates of the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson are extended to December 2019.

POINTS TO DISCUSS

Discuss already existing regulations the international community is maintaining.

Previous treaties and accords taken regarding this actions

Debate on whether they are still viable

Reflect about the risks that the population is exposed to when radical ideals are being spread through mass media.

Probabilities of radicalization of the general population

Measures to prevent the spreading of radical ideals

Debate on whether surveillance should be imposed in targeted groups which pose a potential threat to a nation's security.

Security Measures

Regulations to surveillance

Find measures to regulate fundamentalist messages from spreading without interfering with citizens' human rights.

Identification of mass media used by radical groups

Prevention of messages being spread

Regulations that may be applied to mass media

How is the mass media being affected by belligerent groups and the possible measures to solve this issue without violating civil rights.

Governmental interference on mass media

Violation of civil rights

Influence of belligerent groups in mass media

Analyze the consequences of the population being radicalized and to supervise the threat it may pose for the country.

Creation of a contingency plan to avoid radicalization

Security expenses taken by the government

Discussion of previous cases of radicalized individuals

Measures willing to be taken by the delegations in order to fight against belligerent groups and avoid their messages from being spread through the civil population.

Previous military interventions to fight against radical groups

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