

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The question of Preventing Terrorism in Europe

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Introduction

Terrorism is the premeditated act of using violence or the threat of violence, especially against civilians, committed by non-state actors or undercover personnel in their pursuit of political, religious or ideological aims. The number of attacks categorized as terrorism has drastically increased making counter-terrorism one of the most discussed subjects internationally. Multiple international institutions have set counter-terrorism as a top priority. The UN followed the European Union and expressed its intentions to combat terrorism and their desire to take immediate action against it.

Terrorism has been part of our world for decades, but it came to the public through the 9/11 when the two hijacked planes destroyed the Twin Towers by flying straight into them. That was a critical moment which made terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and its successor, ISIS, to get more and more attention and to be on the radar of the public even more. The recent bombings and attacks in Europe at which the IS committed itself makes the urgency of taking measures even higher.

Key Terms and Useful Definitions

ISIS: The term stands for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and is an extremist militant group that rules by Wahhabi/Salafi law. Also known as ISIL is an Islamist militant group that has apprehended an area of land that spans from Syria to Iraq. In the last few years, about 3,400 people residing in western countries such as the USA have been recruited by ISIS, to establish an Islamist state in Iraq and Syria.

Wahhabi/Salafi law: An ultra-conservative reform branch or movement within Sunni Islam that developed in Arabia in the first half of the 18th century against a background of European colonialism. It advocated a return to the traditions of the ‘‘devout ancestors’’ (the salaf).

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF): Was set up by the Secretary General in 2005 and supported by the General Assembly through the United

Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (adopted in 2006) . The purpose of CTITF is to improve the coordination and the viability of the counter-terrorism attempts made by the United Nations. After the Security Council Resolution 2178, the CTITF acknowledged executions of methods to anticipate radicalization to terrorism and, hinder the transportation of foreign terrorist recruits and counter violent extremism.

Radicalization: The process when an individual or group adopts alarmingly extreme political, social, or religious principles.

Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC): the CTC works to bolster the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): an inter-governmental body established in 1989, a *policy-making body*, whose objectives are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Europol-categorizes acts of terrorism that have either failed, been foiled or been successfully executed within the European Union (EU) as either pertaining to religious issues, right wing, left wing or separatist movements.

UN TREATIES AND EVENTS:

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199, 2 February 2015

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178, 24 September 2014

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2195, 19 December 2014

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1624, 14 September 2005

History of Terrorism

According to the facts given by the US' National Counter-Terrorism Center, modern terrorism dates back to the early 1970's. With time passing, international left- and right-wing terrorism increasingly ceased in action, with radical religious organizations becoming a more visible threat.

In the 1990's, the trend of religiously motivated terrorist organizations was further cemented, examples being the Al-Qaeda and the Hezbollah. The Hamas continued

attacking Israel throughout the decade and furthermore, India and Pakistan were also attracting attention with the several assassinations of the US representatives.

In 2001, involved Member States have taken further action against terrorism by several treaties, acts and pacts signed by international parties. The Hamas has continued attacking Israel until today, although other terrorist organizations have increased their activity.

Key Issues

Ever since 2014, entire Europe was the victim of over 40 terrorist attacks with a huge number of casualties. Compared to the past, these events increased dramatically, fact that supports the urge of taking measures in order to diminish the source. Terrorism has many reasons, but the most emphasis is put on the racial and cultural differences or religious motives.

One of the first issues that is directly affecting us is method of financing that the terrorist organizations have. Even though terrorist entities and individuals are still relying on traditional forms of terrorist financing such as cash or money remitters, these groups are also utilizing the Internet and other forms of information and communication technologies to access, raise, and move funds. The source of terrorist funds may be licit or illicit, and funding often takes the form of multiple small donations, rather than one large sum of money. Also, terrorist groups may be directly or indirectly linked to organized criminal groups and may engage in criminal activities, including drugs or arms trafficking, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom. Terrorism financing is a global phenomenon that not only threatens Member States' security, but can also undermine economic development and financial market stability. It is therefore of paramount importance to stem the flow of funds to terrorists. Without funding, they cannot purchase weapons, equipment, supplies, or services.

Another key issue that arises is the recruitment of teenagers by different tactful strategies. UN reports state a 71% increase in foreign recruits since 2014. Global terrorist groups are accounted for having recently moved their recruitment stages to online networking systems, for example, Facebook and Twitter. According to a new study from the Pew Research Centre, those with the access to cell phones, 92% of adolescents are proclaimed to go online every day to utilize online networking sites.

Around 90% of grouped terrorism is being facilitated online through social networking; this empowers universal terrorist groups to enroll youthful individuals without breaching the physical limits.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts

The European Union established counter-terrorism itself, with several key documents and institutions as a measure to counter terrorist activities. The aim of the EU's strategy is to aid the prevention of future radicalization, the protection of citizens and infrastructure, the pursuit of any terrorist activity across borders and the response to terrorism by minimizing any harm that was done.

Also, the UN passed a resolution, which established the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in order to pursue the goal of diminishing terrorism not only in Europe, but all around the world.

Major Parties Involved

The major parties involved are the **United States of America** which was the starting target of modern terrorism with the attack on the Twin Towers, **United Kingdom** and **France** both of which have had suffered massive destruction and casualties because of the terrorist attacks happening since 2015, **Germany** which was affected by bombings both in 2016 and 2017 and it's deeply involved in the anti-terrorism fight and **Russia** which was recently threatened by ISIS. Also, NATO acts as a whole in the chase of diminishing terrorism.

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