

Committee: Disarmament & International Security

Topic: Terrorist Empowerment and Recruitment



DEFINITIONS AND KEY INFORMATION

Terrorism

The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims

Religious Terrorism

Terrorist groups which are extremely religiously motivated.

Criminal Terrorism

Terrorist acts used to aid crime and criminal profit.

Political Terrorism

Terrorists that fight for extremes of a political scale.

Dissent Terrorism

Terrorist groups which have rebelled against the government.

State-sponsored Terrorism

Terrorists act on a state or government, funded by a state or government.

Revolutionary Terrorism

Seeking the complete abolition of a political system, with replacement of new structures.

Cyber Terrorism

The politically motivated use of computers and information technology to cause severe disruption or widespread fear in society.

KEY ISSUES

In today's world, different forms of terrorism are prevalent in many countries. Terrorism tends to emerge in countries where there has been some form of economic or political uncertainty. This is problematic because terrorism is a tactic used to instill fear by using violence or inciting the use of violence, which can lead to many casualties and cause unnecessary chaos.

Terrorism can be classified into five classes, Religious terrorism, Criminal Terrorism, Left and Right Terrorism, Criminal Terrorism and State-sponsored Terrorism.

The most common form of terrorism, however, up to date is revolutionary terrorism (which can consist of terrorists from each of the classes mentioned above). Notable modern cases include the German Red Army Faction, The Islamic State militants, The Italian Red Brigades, and the Peruvian Shining Path. All these organisations were reliant upon military

strength to make their views heard and achieve their universal goal of overthrowing the current government.

Overall in Europe, recent years have shown a decline in the danger posed by high level weaponry as counter terrorism efforts have proven successful over time at stopping and intercepting planned attacks. This has led to emergence of different strategies by terrorist organisation. Low grade weaponry that can easily be assembled at home and attacks including vehicles are both becoming increasingly common, as can be shown by the 2016 truck attack in Nice, France where 87 civilians were killed.

Online recruitment & Manipulation

Well known terrorist groups such as ISIS are famous for using platforms such as youtube and snapchat to post propaganda videos and videos containing extreme uncensored violence. These videos were used to instill fear and appeal to certain audiences. Other manipulative recruitment videos have used online shooting games as a comparison to the 'adventure' and 'real life fun' as well as a promise to be provided with housing and safety. Children and videos of terrorists checking on the wounded, strike empathy within many viewers, hiding the darker side to organisations, making them appeal to a wider audience such as young men (to fight on the frontlines) and women (to be wives or sold into the sex trade). This form of recruitment occurs on a global scale as it gives terrorist propaganda direct access to anyone connected to the internet.

Radicalisation in correction centres and prisons

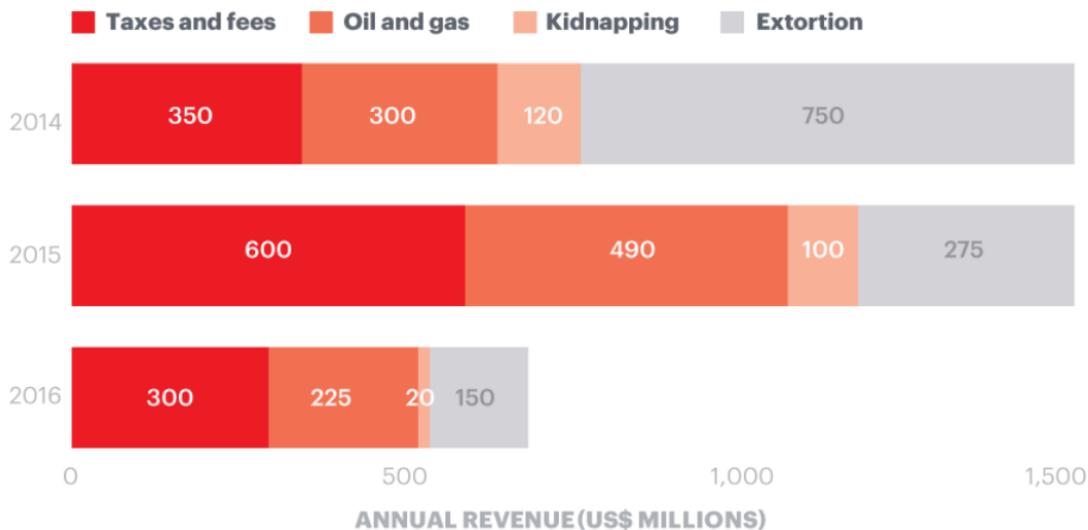
Radicalisation in prisons is becoming increasingly common, and has been leading to violent extremism. This is due to a variety of potential risks that are present in prisons and correction centres: grievances/ anger/ frustration related to being in prison, the presence of extremist supporters or sympathisers in prison, the hostility between prisoners/ staff, the support of extremist groups outside of prison and the grooming or preparation of prisoners to perform acts of terror and violence upon release. Notable cases of radicalisation in prisons include several members of the group responsible for 2004 Madrid train bombings and the 'shoe bomber' Richard Reid (who failed an attempt to blow up a US passenger plane with explosives hidden in his shoe in 2001).

Terrorist Empowerment

The largest revenue ever produced by a terrorist organisation was \$2 billion in 2015 by ISIS, the equivalent of the GDP of some smaller nations. ISIS used a strategy of self funding, which included the smuggling of oil out of the controlled territory. At its peak, this produced \$1.3 million each day, however this broke down after ISIS lost control of major territory in Iraq and Syria, as they relied on having military strength as a main tactic.

ISIL REVENUE

Estimated revenues, 2014-2016



In addition to the terrorists financial scheme, terrorists have been able to readily get their hands on weapons. Many terrorist organisations resort to using people with no criminal background to make financial transactions in an attempt to avoid detection.

The Darknet (DarkWeb) is often used as a trade for weapons as it allows users to browse the internet without giving their location away through encrypting the IP address of the electronic device before routing it through several other computers running on the same software. Through this process, it makes it nearly impossible to track transactions and allows each party involved to stay anonymous.

NATIONS & MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

The United States of America

Ever since the attack on the US in 2001, the US has taken an extreme stance on radical groups and cults. The invasion of Afghanistan was mainly driven to wipe out Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Over the recent years, America has put forward millions of dollars in combating ISIS in Iraq and Syria virtually wiping them off the map. The US has now recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and has provided weapons to Israel to defend against Hamas. The battle with terrorism in the US has led to a growth in anti-Islam views and xenophobia.

The Middle East

With tensions ever growing in the Middle East, terrorism has played a massive role. ISIS occupied quite a lot of land in Iraq and Syria allegedly with the help of Iran. Saudi Arabia, a vocal critique of the Iran Regime, has sponsored efforts against ISIS. As well as this, Kurdish forces have been involved as well as Turkey.

Possible Solutions

- Promoting international cooperation to draw up guidelines for countries who are able to contribute some form of military or financial support to do so in aid of countries suffering from terrorism.

The RAN P&P (Radicalisation Awareness Network) in 2012, was working on preventing radicalisation in prison by :

- Trying to avoid engagement with extremist groups and extremist behaviour during detention and probation.
- Decreasing the current levels of radicalisation in prisons/ probation programmes, this was trying to be achieved by working alongside 146 practitioners, such as prison governors, The Ministry of Justice and prison officers.
- Looking for the financial footprint if terrorist organisation has an online presence in buying and selling items.

The UN put forward the treaty 'International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism ' in 1999, which up to date 189 parties have joined, with a total of 132 signatures.

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