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## **NEW CHALLENGES IN ANTI-TERRORISM STRATEGIES**

**COL Prof. Mihai NEAG, PhD**

“Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy / Sibiu / Romania

**Abstract:**

The need to adopt a new strategy to combat terrorism or counterinsurgency continues to lead to be the main issue of the discourse on contemporary security. The ideology of the jihadists within the Islamic State Group calls for a total war which has no limits and constraints. This requires the adoption of new anti-terrorism strategies, depending on the nature of the terrorist threat.

The Islamic State group currently controls an extensive region in Syria and Iraq. The battle against the Islamic State is inevitably a long-term project because it is much more than a terrorist group.

*Key words: terrorism, strategy, security, Islamic State*

### **1. Introduction**

The terrorist risks at international level have preserved their causality, being joined with prolonging instability in certain regions of the world and a rise in violence, especially in the region of Syria-Iraq. As expected, the fight against terrorism has changed in recent decades, this development is due to the changes produced in the nature of terrorism.

The escalation of terrorist actions in recent years has been fueled by the intensification of ethnic and religious tensions, as well as by the worsening of some political, economic or social problems. On the other hand, the proliferation of mass destruction weapons and the development of the Internet have resulted in the shaping of new forms of terrorism: chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and computer ones. The acts of the terrorist groups have become bloodier and bloodier and indiscriminate, thus forcing Governments to adopt a new tactic in the struggle to combat the phenomenon. Along with the technological revolution, this fight has evolved into a form of irregular warfare.

While terrorism is a threat that cannot be completely eradicated, there are steps that can be taken to disrupt, dismantle and ultimately defeat terrorist organizations, through the systematic degradation of the capacities of action of the terrorist groups and the reduction of the territory they control. Whereas terrorist threats do not take into account the borders, they have to be addressed at both national and international level. Existing strategies to combat terrorism are based on horizontal and vertical cooperation between the interested parties at the local level up to the international one. The effective prevention entails the involvement of non-governmental organizations, front-line workers, security services and experts in the field.

### **2. Challenges in anti-terrorism strategies**

Terrorism poses a threat to security, to the values of our democratic societies and towards the citizens' rights and freedoms. The anti-terrorism strategies are shifting depending on the nature of the terrorist threats. International terrorism, particularly Al-

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Qaeda-type terrorism, is and remains persistent and flexible to the changes of the in contemporary world. That is precisely why anti-terrorism strategies involve comprehensive approaches to combat terrorism, based not only on the allocation of the necessary resources but also on setting out the responsibilities to provide a direct response proportional to the terrorist attacks because there is no simple solution to the issue of terrorism.

The strategic recipes applied to such groups as Hamas and Hezbollah will look totally different depending on the political context, the current environment of threat and, of course, according to the Government carrying out such operations to combat terrorism. These strategies require building confidence within communities and between them, promoting a better understanding of the sensibilities and other issues, involving different classes of society and many more. Achieving all these steps reduces the risk of radicalization and provides better opportunities for the termination of processes that lead to extremism and violence.

Organizing, preparing and implementing the terrorist actions have perfected continuously, the funding sources have not yet been stopped- the very actions of the Islamic State prove perfection in the use of modern techniques and weaponry, the high-level gathering of information-and the benefits, from a legal, financial, operative or security point of view, give the terrorist organizations outstanding possibilities to carry out actions.

Eliminating terrorism only by force is not possible, the vast territory that it manifests itself cannot be controlled. There are states possessing the nuclear weapon, the Muslim religion is in expansion as well as the Muslim population. One solution would be to establish realistic strategies in combating terrorism in the long run, although each conflict against terrorism has its own characteristics.

### **3. Initiatives of the European Union and the United States**

Europe is directly affected by the terrorist activity of the rest of the world. Europeans may be victims of the attacks, but they may also be perpetrators of such attacks. **EU strategy for combating terrorism** aims at countering global terrorism, with respect for human rights, and increasing safety in Europe, ensuring its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice. In this regard, the Council adopted in 2005 the EU strategy to combat terrorism. The strategy focuses on four main pillars: prevention, protection, pursuit and response. Through its four pillars, the strategy recognizes the importance of cooperation with third countries and with international institutions.

The recent terrorist attacks in the EU have highlighted the need for a common firm reply at EU level, in particular the phenomenon of foreign fighters who return to the country of origin. Although this issue is not new, the scale and the flow of fighters to and from ongoing conflicts from Syria, Iraq and Libya, as well as the interconnected nature of these conflicts are unprecedented.

In the light of recent developments as well as the phenomenon of individuals acting on their own and the foreign fighters or the growing potential of mobilization and communication means of social communication, the Council adopted a revised version of that strategy in June 2014. In December 2014, the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs adopted a series of **guidelines** for the revised EU Strategy for combating radicalization and recruitment ("**exit strategies**") [1]. These guidelines will lay down a series of measures to be implemented by the EU and its Member States.

In the work of prevention I consider that an important role is the countering **the challenges of online** materials and extremist propaganda. The groups within communities, the citizens, the victims and the former extremists can convey powerful messages in this

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regard. To respond to such challenges the cooperation with civil society and the private sector is important in the development of measures to dismantle the extremist propaganda.

The second priority of the EU's strategy to combat terrorism is the protection of citizens and the infrastructure and reducing vulnerability to attacks. This includes the protection of external borders, improvement of the safety of transport, protection of strategic targets and reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructures. In this area, the EU is currently working on the elaboration of legal acts regulating the use **of the data in the records with the name of passengers (PNR)** in order to ensure compliance with the law.

The EU turned its attention to several aspects: strengthening of national capacities, improving practical cooperation and exchange of information between the police and judicial authorities (in particular through Europol and Eurojust), addressing the question of financing of terrorism and thwarting the means of organizing attacks and communication of the terrorist organizations. In May 2015, the Council and the European Parliament adopted new rules to prevent **money laundering and the financing of terrorism**.

Another objective of the EU's strategy to combat terrorism is preparation, in the spirit of solidarity, to manage and to minimize the consequences of a terrorist attack. This is achieved by improving the capacity to manage the risks, the coordination of response and the needs of victims. Priorities in recent years have included: defining arrangements for implementing EU solidarity clause, by means of a Council decision, adopted in June 2014; the process of review of EU mechanisms for coordination in emergency situations and crises, replaced by the integrated EU mechanism for political response to crises (IPCR) in June 2013; review of EU legislation in the field of civil protection at the end of 2013.

In taking the strategic guidelines relating to justice and home affairs, adopted in June 2014, the European Council called for the establishment of an effective policy to combat terrorism, which should integrate the internal and external aspects. On 12 February 2015, the heads of State and Government of the EU have highlighted the importance for the EU to have increased cooperation with third countries in the field of security and combating terrorism. The EU will cooperate to combat terrorism with the Western Balkan countries, North Africa, the Sahel, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and North America, and Asia. **Cooperation with the USA** represents a fundamental component of EU strategy.

The European Union cooperates with international organizations, including the United Nations and with the Global Forum on combating terrorism, and with regional organizations such as OSCE, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the organization of Islamic Cooperation. Within the framework of its cooperation with the United Nations, and as a result of resolutions of the UN Security Council, the EU has adopted restrictive measures against certain persons or entities linked to the Al-Qaeda network. [2] Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings constitute a serious cross-border crime, which is a priority on the political agenda of the EU. Since 2011, in the EU there is a directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The legislative framework and the existing policy have contributed to enhancing and improving cooperation between the various agencies of the EU as well as at the various levels of Government.

The EU regulates the free movement of weapons used for legitimate purposes and has taken measures to prevent cross-border smuggling in firearms. The EU has imposed very strict standards on the import, export and transfer of firearms. Despite these efforts, the black market still exists in Europe. The European Commission hopes to introduce more stringent controls at the level of the EU and has called for a better exchange of information relating to the production of and trafficking in firearms. The incidents in Paris and

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subsequent actions on terrorism and the arrests in Europe show the need for a European concerted response against terrorism.

The terrorist phenomenon must be very well reviewed as it requires knowledge of the mechanisms, in order to combat the causes, to limit the effects, to deter them, if possible. September 11, 2001, the day that the terrorist attacks took place in the USA, has remained in collective memory not only as a major disaster, but also as the day when humanity understood that a long war against this scourge would start and that nothing would be as before. The policy without concessions introduced after the events of September 11, 2001 is no longer totally valid. The developments in counter-terrorist actions have been a slow process, influenced by the changing nature of the international terrorism, the new advances in military technology.

Some anti-terrorism strategies are defined in the field manual of USA as *operations, which include offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, predict and respond to terrorism*. [3] The anti-terrorism strategies change, however, depending on the nature of the threat. The fight against terrorism is a complex phenomenon that involves specialized forces, cutting-edge techniques, and immense financial and human resources, highly qualified workforce information.

The last form of a Strategy of National Security of the United States was presented by President Barack Obama earlier this year. The main threats remained terrorism, extreme climate changes and cyber ones. The fight against the Islamic State (ISIS) remains as a matter of priority, in the context of the terrorist threat in many countries of the world. *The National Security Strategy* describes US as an indispensable force in tackling global challenges such as terrorism, climate changes and cyber threats. [4] The strategy acknowledges that there are serious threats externally and reiterates that the aim is to defeat the Group ISIS, but keeps a catchy tune. [5] The National Security Strategy also specifies that the USA will continue to support the Iraqi Government in the fight against the ISIS group and that it will help in training and equipping the Syrian moderate opposition fighting against terrorists from Syria. [6] The document acknowledges that the terrorist threat persists and has spread to many countries and continents. [7] In the same time, the threat of catastrophic attacks of terrorists over the country decreased. [8]

The fight against international terrorism is at a crossroads, the political debates on the need to adopt a new strategy to combat terrorism or to counterinsurgency continue to lead the security discourse in the contemporary USA and NATO. As for the ways to combat the terrorist threat in Europe, where, similar as in the United States, the current counter-terrorist policy is marked by confusion, the Secretary General of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA/NATO), Jason Wiseman, stated that it was necessary to act both on the fight against terrorist groups and the motivations that caused an increasing number of Europeans to become sympathetic or combatants of these groups. [9]

### **4. Campaign against ISIS**

Triggered in March 2011 by a popular uprising, brutally repressed, the conflict in Syria has been transformed into a civil war with a multitude of actors, resulting in more than 240,000 dead, which prompted to the flee of millions of Syrians and provoked a serious crisis of migration. Now we find ourselves in an unprecedented situation in recent history.

The Middle East is under siege of the Jihadist Islamic State grouping (SI), an ultra radical group, which already controls territories in Syria and Iraq, and its campaign of recruiting ended up in India. SI made its presence felt in the last few years, but had a quick ascent into the summer of 2014. Jihadi group and expansion added a new dimension to terrorism, which is now no longer restricted to specific attacks against Western civilization, how the al-Qaida organization, but is aimed at the creation of territorial entities.

After Syria and Iraq, and is preparing to expand its influence up in Southeast Asia, where it already controls the impoverished territories through Southeast Asia, attracting the

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interest of young people in the area. [10] Today young people get radical to be sitting at home on the internet, in chat rooms and on Facebook.

The Islamic State is considered a threat to Europe because hundreds of Muslim Europeans joined the group, which means that we can reasonably expect from future terrorist attacks. NATO leaders were removed from the list of possible interventions: soldiers on the ground, negotiating with and for the release of the hostages from the Western countries and the formation of an alliance with the adversary group in Syria, President Bashar al Assad. The countries of the Arab League have also been suggested (in fewer words) that will fight against the group, which threaten Iraq, authority and even the existence of the State and other States, but not in the context of alliances with Western States. [11]

Military actions taking place in Syria, and that military campaign is being prepared, there is no precedent. Will not be restricted to air strikes with drones, such as anti-terrorism operations from Yemen and Pakistan, but will not include any military operations on the ground, as in Afghanistan, and unlike the Kosovo war of 1999, there will be an intensive military action, which will end in two months. The main goal is to help Iraqi and Kurdish troops to regain control in the territories taken over and, while this strategy is both military and economic policy. Perhaps that goal will be reached or not, has more shades of political and economic, rather than military, and it will be achieved will probably assume a long period in which terror and will continue, and which, inter alia, of the Orient decimates Christianity.

The Syrian regime's forces are supported by Russia, which argues that attacks mainly Islamic State grouping jihadist (SI), targeting in particular actually hostile rebel groups, including the al-Nusra Front, Syrian wing of al-Qaeda. While Westerners, hostile to President Bashar al-Assad, accusing Moscow wants to consolidate the Syrian ally, instead of combat, which occupied half of the territory of the vast regions of Syria and neighboring Iraq.

The terrorist organization Hamas, until recently considered a major threat for Israel, is now a "frenemy" of the Jews, because they declared war.

Organization, grouping Libya Fajr from Islamist embroiled in a brutal war against the Libyan Government, once destabilized, Libya is in confrontation with and.

Iran has shown its willingness to fight against the jihadists and, contrary to his "reputation" as a State that sponsors most terrorism.

### **5. Conclusion**

Terrorism is not just the evil that shall befall the planet, but, moreover, it is often the obsessive power of fanaticism, of vengeance, of killing, against any laws. Therefore, the phenomenon must be very well reviewed, required knowledge of mechanisms, in order to combat the causes, to limit the effects even to deter, if possible.

In the near future, terrorism will remain the main concern for security of the transatlantic community. A realistic strategy to deal with terrorist threats, to ensure the allocation of scarce resources and defining the spheres of action, is a topical theme. As Winston Churchill reminds us, "no matter how beautiful it is, one has to analyze the results from time to time". [12] Defining the strategy for combating terrorism will be the first step. Firm commitment on the part of all States in respect of its implementation will be decisive in achieving the desired result: the success of the Alliance in the fight against terrorism.

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