



Forum: United Nations Security Council

Issue: International Security in the New Era of Terrorism

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Overview

Terrorism has been a major threat to the stability of the world. Many consider the 9/11 attacks in the United States as the start of a new era of terrorism. When previously most terrorist attacks were domestic, with motives usually being money, forwarding political agendas, or just pure insanity. The 9/11 terrorist attacks introduced a new form of international, religious, and ideologically charged terrorist attacks, usually stemming from islamic middle eastern nations. While the 9/11 is the most widely remembered, it is actually not the first form of such an attack. That credit goes to the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972, when a group of Islamists kidnapped and killed Jewish athletes competing in the Munich Olympics, then boarded a flight to Libya where the country actually took them in. Back on track, most, if not all, recognized Middle Eastern and North African terrorist organizations practice some form of radical islamism. Believing in establishment of shari'a law, enforcement of islamic traditions, and being extremely intolerant of any other form of religious practices. Those beliefs are often forced onto the local population, with mixed results. Some of the more notable attacks on the western world, orchestrated by such terrorist organizations are namely the 9/11 Attacks on New York, the Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris, the November Paris attacks, London Transport Bombings, and the bombing of the Belgian International Airport. Those attacks in the Western world had strong effects on local security measures as well as local defense and police spending. With many concerned citizens even proposing a complete ban over immigrants from regions which were affiliated with the nationalities of the terrorists. These attacks have created a media frenzy around the globe about the security of our very neighborhoods, and to some, calls into question the purity of the Islamic religion.

Another form of terrorism, that while being less talked about, is just as deadly as international terrorism by known terrorist organizations. This form of terrorism is known as domestic terrorism. Domestic terrorism is a form of terrorism perpetrated by peoples from within the



country, and of the same citizenship as the victims. Domestic terrorists usually tend to operate alone or in small groups rather than large organizations. The first recorded act of domestic terrorism goes all the way back to 1605, in England, when a group of catholics placed a keg of gunpowder underneath the House of Lords in an attempt to kill King James I. Some more well known acts of domestic terrorism would be the Columbine Shootings in the United States, the Sarin Gas attacks in Tokyo, and the Kunming Stabbing in China. The Kunming stabbing in particular was a very interesting case. As while most western media groups acknowledges the stabbing as an act of domestic terrorism, they tend to leave an asterisk as to why this attack was carried out. BBC for example, painted a rather sympathetic picture to the Uighur terrorists in their articles; describing their cause in detail, and inserting quotations around the word “terrorists”.

Notable Regions

Middle East

The Middle East are homes to several well known and well established terrorist organizations around the world. Coincidentally, this region also happens to be where the worlds highest concentration of practicing muslims are. The most notable groups are Al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the Taliban, and Hezbollah. This region also ranks high in terms of instability with revolutions, civil wars, and riots being commonplace. Combine that with a weak police and military force, widespread poverty, low education rates, and corrupt government officials and that creates a breeding ground for illegal terrorist organizations. And those aforementioned terrorist organizations take full advantage, with the Taliban even taking full control over the entire Afghan nation.

North/Sub-Saharan Africa

The North and Sub-Saharan African regions are also a hotbed for terrorist activities, with several Middle Eastern terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and the Taliban setting up an independent branch in North and Sub-Saharan Africa. Some well known branches are Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, and and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). With its rich natural resources, the North and Sub-Saharan African terrorist organizations are often funded through



the extraction of natural resources such as Gold, Diamonds, and even Petroleum found in the region. What is interesting though, is that most terrorist organizations based in North and Sub-Saharan Africa tends to only commit terrorist acts in their own region, for example, kidnappings of school girls, massacres of local villagers, and bombings in local cities are most commonly the tactics that North and Sub-Saharan African terrorist organizations use (Boko Haram in particular); With very few launching attacks on the western world or westerners in general, a stark contrast to their Middle Eastern counterparts.

Key Terms

Terrorism - The dictionary definition would be: the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. However, in this case, the definition of which would vary from nation to nation, as their own interests change.

Al Qaeda - Al Qaeda is a militant radical-islam militant group which pledges allegiance to their founder, Osama Bin Laden and vows to drive the United States and all westerners out of the Middle East.

ISIS - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is a self proclaimed militant state which practices and preaches radical-islam to the world. Their goal is to establish convert the world to islam, and for the world to live under their Islamic State.

State-Sponsors of Terrorism - Though members of which are defined by the United States, State-Sponsors of Terrorism are nations that sponsor terrorist organizations. Currently, those would be North Korea, Iran, Syria, and Sudan.

Domestic Terrorism - Domestic terrorism are acts of terrorism inflicted by nationals of the nation which is being attacked. Victims are also the same nationality as those of the perpetrators, with goals usually being religiously or politically charged.

Important Events/Timelines

KEY:

Al-Qaeda Affiliated

ISIS Affiliated

Al-Shabaab Affiliated

Taliban Affiliated



Domestic Terrorism Foreign Radical-Religious Terrorist Groups

1605 - First recorded act of Terrorism, plot to kill King James I of Great Britain

1969-2009 - ‘The Troubles’ in Ireland. As domestic terrorism ran rampant in Northern Ireland.

1972 - Munich Olympics Massacre

1979 - Grand Mosque siege in Mecca

1983 - US Embassy siege in Beirut

1993 - World Trade center bombing

1995 - Tokyo subway Sarin Gas attacks

1999 - Columbine Shooting in the United States

2001 - September 11 Attacks in the United States rocks the world

2004 - Madrid Train Bombs

2004 - Beslan School Siege



2005 - London Transport Bombings

2007 - Yazidi Community Bombings

2008 - Siege of Mumbai

2013 - Kunming Stabbings

2013 - Boston Marathon bombings

2013 - Westgate Mall Shooting

2014 - Chibok School Girls kidnapping

2014 - Peshawar School Massacre

2014 - Isla Vista Shooting UCSB

2015 - Charlie Hebdo Shootings

2015 - Ankara Bombings

2015 - Beirut Bombing

2015 - Paris Attacks rocks Europe

2016 - Brussels International Airport
Bombing

2017 - Manchester Arena Bombing

2017 - London Bridge Attack

2017 - Parsons Green Explosion

2017 - Marseille Attack

2017 - Barcelona&Cambrils Attacks





2018 - Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting



Major Nations/Organizations

United States

The United States's defines a terrorist organization as “an organization which engages in or retains the capability and intent to engage in terrorism and threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national defense, foreign relations, or the economic interests of the United States.”. The United States is perhaps the biggest and most active foreign participant in policing and



eliminating terrorist threats around the globe. With military and intelligence assets scattered all around the world. The United States is currently the worlds biggest and most powerful superpower, dwarfing all nations in military spending.

European Union

The European Union (EU) has suffered the most from foreign-terrorist-attacks out of the western world, with ISIS and Al-Qaeda routinely targeting EU nations. Most European nations are a member of NATO, and would get involved in coalitions formed by the United States intended to eliminate terrorist threats in the Middle East. Seldom has any EU nation closed themselves up to migrants from the very regions whose terrorists attacked them however, with many EU nations actually opening up a near open-door policy to migrants coming from the Middle East.

NATO

The interests of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are very much in-sync with the interests of the United States and her Western Allies. And by Western allies, strictly western allies. Turkey, also a member of NATO, does not share some NATO's views or even recognize the same terrorist organizations as NATO.

Middle Eastern Nations

Middle eastern nations, most of which are quite authoritarian, would have their greatest interests in maintaining power in their country. To add to this, their nations is majority muslim, which means some parts of their population might actually sympathize with some jihadist values, and support terrorist organizations.

United Nations

While the United Nations (UN) tries hard to maintain a balanced and equal judgement as to which organizations fall under the branding as a 'Terrorist Organization', the UN is very much under the influence of the west; with most of the UN's list of terrorist organizations aligning with



that of Western nations. The UN does play a vital role in humanitarian aid to nations such as Afghanistan and Somalia, which are home to many terrorist organizations.



Possible Solutions

The greatest difficulty in determining how to put an end to terrorism, what defines terrorism. As many times, political factors are in play in what is technically considered terrorism by different nations. For example, Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization which took down the Twin Towers in New York, is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and the EU, but not considered a terrorist organization by Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, or Tunisia (The Republic of China, Vietnam, Argentina, Ukraine, and Philippines also don't consider them a terrorist organization, but their motives are different). In the case of Saudi Arabia, there were also several financial links between their royal family and Al Qaeda. A more interesting divide would probably be the Abu Sayyaf organization, recognized by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations as a terrorist organization, but not recognized as a terrorist organization by either the European Union or Russia for that matter. In order for members of the security council to come to agreement over what solution to implement to curb terrorist organizations' power, the security council must first come into consensus or at least acquiescence as to what constitutes a terrorist organization. Now obviously this debate would be (or at least should be) a rather lengthy one, as there are many diverging interests in play here.



The United States would want to forward and impose their values on the international stage, Russia would want to protect her own interests as well curbing US influence, and the Middle Eastern nations would be purely interested in maintaining power over their countries. It is to be expected that many vetoes will be thrown around during resolutions, especially with resolutions that may be too inflammatory. Therefore, the most likely and most plausible solution to the topic would likely be a very neutral and very general resolution that does not directly eradicate terrorism, but instead would curb its' international influence by enforcing acts such as harsher security checks, limiting arms shipments to select regions, tighter regulation on banking transactions in active or known terrorist havens, and giving humanitarian aid in certain regions to help civilians caught in the middle.

In terms of Domestic terrorism, a resolution formed to solve this particular issue would be unlikely. As each nation has their own niche in terms of terrorists. For example, the United States suffers more from domestic gun-violence, whereas India has bomb attacks, Japan has chemical attacks, and China has stabbings. A resolution aimed to solve Domestic terrorism



would most likely be extremely ineffective and very blunt at even trying to solve the issue. This is due to the fact that Domestic terrorism is more of a domestic issue than an international one.



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