5.1 Past weeks and this week

Hello. Welcome to the fifth and final week of this Coursera course, in which we will build upon that what we've learned in the previous sessions. Focus on the implications of what we've learned. And look into the future of terrorism. Let me first briefly go back to the previous sessions. In week one, we explored the definition And essence of terrorism and looked into the question why there is no generally accepted definition. And also its implications.

We also discussed the phrase, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. And the politically sensitive issue of listing terrorist organizations. These black lists of designated terrorist organization. In week two, we Looked at the, state of the art of terrorism studies, and I explained why it is so difficult to do research on terrorism and counter terrorism. And then in week three we explored and discussed five assumptions on terrorism. And in the previous week, we explored five assumptions on counter-terrorism.

Well in these four different sessions, I observed a need for further study on certain topics, the lack of consensus about certain assumptions and persisting challenges for policy makers. And therefore in this final session we're first going to make an inventory of unanswered questions, un and under research topics and these persisting challenges to policy makers. Well next I would like to focus on two key Issues that in my eyes are very important and deserve more attention. And the first one is the impact of fear of terrorism, and how we can limit the impact of terrorism-related incidents. And the second subject is to look at Trends and developments in terrorism in order to shape tomorrow's counter terrorism policies, as well as research into terrorism and counter terrorism.

5.2 Underresearched topics

Hello. In this video, we will look at what we do not know, or know too little of. Or in other words, we will focus on unanswered questions. On and under research topics, ongoing debates and persisting challenges. Of course, I'm not the only scholar that Has pointed at shortcomings in the field of terrorism studies.

In week two, I quoted Magnus Ranstorp, Andrew Silke, and Alex Schmid, who have produced valuable publications on the state of the art of terrorism studies, as well as have provided criticism with regard to what has been produced since 9/11. And Alex Schmid is also one of the directors of the Terrorism Research Initiative that aims to promote research into topics that are not fashionable. And he came up with a list of 50 un and under research topics in the field of terrorism.

Have a look at a list. A number of topics on this list actually closely connected to what some of you have talked about in the discussion forum. Let me give you a few examples. For instance topic number three on the List by Alex Schmid, is unwanted and unexpected side and boomerang effects, or blow back effects, of counter terrorism and ways to recognize it or to minimize it. Well think of the debate about the use of drones.

Another example of an un-and-under researched topic is the one that relate to the media the internet and terrorism. How are they how do they impact each other. And what can be done about them while upholding the freedom of speech, the freedom of expression. Its number 18 on the list.

And we also observed a lot of discussion about state human rights violation as part of counter terrorism policies. It's been regarded as an important, under-researched topic especially with regard to their question, how widespread is, is this and how serious is this phenomenon. And it's number 34 on the list of Alex Schmid.

And then, finally, a more recent under-researched topic is related to also a more recent phenomenon, the so called Arab awakening. And it's important to look at its implications for cooperation in the field of counter terrorism and its implications in general. An important more recent topic, number 48 on the list. Personally, I hope to contribute to two under-researched topics number nine, number ten. Our topic number nine is about warning the public and responsible crisis communication prior, during, and after a terrorist attack. What are lessons learned. Well, it's the focus of one of the next videos.

And the same holds for topic number 10, which is about resilience. How can we strengthen public resilience. What are policies of certain states and Alex Schmid mentions Columbia Israel and the United States. But we can also learn from other countries That have been confronted with either devastating attacks or many attacks. Think of Iraq, Pakistan, India or Russia. Again, also this is a topic for the next video. But before we will focus on these two Topics let me add one more to the list of un-and-under-researched topics. Issue number 51, in my eyes, should be about the gap between policy makers and academia. There is a lack of contacts. They live maybe partly in different worlds.

And what are the implications of that for both the quality of research, and the quality of policy making? Well, here in the Hague, we have the International Center for Counter-Terrorism. That was partly established just, just About the main idea of bridging that particular gap. And the first director of that institute is Peter Knoope. Let's see what he has to say about the gap between policy makers and academia.

"Thank you Edwin. Thank you for that question. I think bridging the gap between the Policy worlds and the academic worlds is really important. If the one wants to use the answers that the other one generates, if the academic world wants to respond to the real questions from the policy worlds, then bridging that gap is really important. And why there is a gap, is because they live in different dynamics, they live in different worlds.

The policy world is determined by the spirit of the media, parliament, the general public that wants responses to the threats, to the attacks, to the terrorist incidents now, immediately. Or the academic world obviously has a Different dynamic and a different way of responding to questions. If

the one wants to understand the other, then they need to come together and get to know each other's worlds.

Getting to know each other's world means living in the other world for, for some time, coming together in the same room, in the same environment and talk to one another. And try to really feel empathy and understand what the other needs are.

Translating the policy needs into academic questions is a real challenge. Policy workers, policy people don't always understand how you can translate what they need to know into a real academic researchable question. Coming together in meetings, in exchanges of personal, in exchanges of knowledge and the dynamics of each other's world is really important."

Thank you, Peter. For more information about the International Center for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague, have a look at their website. As mentioned earlier, bridging the gap between policy makers and scholars is also very important to me. In fact, it would be my topic number 51 on an extended list of un-and-under-researched topics in the field of terrorism studies.

To sum up, there are several issues in the field of terrorism and counter-terrorism that need more attention and more research, both from scholars and policy makers. And the list provided by Alex Schmid is a very useful one. Please have a close look at it. I hope it will inspire some of you when Doing research on terrorism or when contributing to this course discussion forum. To conclude, I would like to stress that the list by Alex Schmid is also a good overview of persisting challenges for policy makers in the field of counter-terrorism. In the next video we will look into fear and resilience regarding terrorism.

5.3 Fear and resilience

Hi there. In the previous video I mentioned a number of issues that need our attention and I singled out fear of terrorism resilience and. The management of fear, prior, during or after a terrorism related incident. And in this video, we will explore these issues.

Well, let me go back to the first week. And where we discuss the definition and essence of terrorism. And although there is no generally accepted definition of the term, there is agreement that it is an instrument. An instrument used by certain actors to achieve certain goals. But the important part is that they try to Achieve these goals by spreading fear and anxiety through violent acts. And these violent acts are part of the tool, not the goal itself.

And I also quoted Brian Jenkins, who in the 1970s said, terrorists like to see a lot of people watching, not a lot of people dead. Or in other words, it's the images and reactions that count. How you and I react to a bomb attack or a shooting spree, of course, also influenced by the media, statements by politicians, et cetera. After the attacks on the United States on the 11th September 2001 there has been a drastic increase in investments in counter terrorism. Many intelligence organizations were given additional means and sometimes additional powers and legal tools to do their work. And there have been investments in other organizations as well actually any actor that somehow could contribute to prevent violent radicalization, extremism, terrorism, et cetera.

And we also saw a number of new actors, new agencies, counter-terrorism coordinators, fusion centers. Well in the first five, six years after 9/11 many of these investments and measures were of a ad hoc nature including immediate reactions to incidents threats et cetera. And the emphasis was for good reasons on Preventing terrorist attacks and especially one of the scale of 9/11. Well, fortunately, Al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations did not manage to repeat an attack on that scale. And in fact, as we noted in the third week Of this course, the number of attacks in the West was relatively low. And although each attack is one too many, and each victim is one too many, it remained very low. Again, at least in the West.

Unfortunately, in other parts of the world, we did see an increase but not in the West. However, the impact of terrorism on societies remained very high. Terrorism was high on the political agenda And according to public opinion polls a lot of people feared terrorism. Thus, in that sense, terrorists got what they wanted, a lot of people watching even if they didn't manage to kill a lot of people. again, at least in the West.

Well, this raises a fundamental question about the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measure and the effectiveness of all these investments. Although difficult to prove, one might argue that the enormous investments seem to have contributed to prevent terrorist incidents, and that's good news. But terrorism is not only about killing, it's also about fear. So, the second part is the fear part, and there we did see that despite all this investment, there was still a very high level of fear and attention for terrorism.

Well, in week three, I gave the example from the Netherlands where one single terrorist killed somebody else, Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh. And he caused very high levels of fear in the Netherlands. Although there has been a lot of investments in the Netherlands at the same time one person was able to make us very scared about terrorism. Well these high levels of fear are bad for at least two reasons. First it can lead to distress and stereotyping of certain groups in society. And it can cause preference for tough action oriented reactions to terrorism, and two simple explanations for this phenomenon. Which is the second reason why fear should be considered to have a bad impact on society.

Well, these immediate reactions and simple explanations for terrorism are often quite automatic responses by policy makers, politicians and the general public. It's almost like a reflect a reflex. Though understandable it can lead to sub-optimal policies and policy making. and even worse it can lead to overreactions a by the public by politicians and policy makers. And that, in turn, can lead to polarization of society, radicalization. Well, you might end up in a negative spiral in which fear for terrorism leads to more terrorism and some terrorists are very aware of that and play into that.

One of the most prominent academic critics of a counter terrorism approach that leads to more fear and anxiety is the British sociologist Frank Furedi and he studied how western society finds it very difficult to deal with change and risk. And he has studied the reactions in the west in the United States in the United Kingdom to the events of 9/11. And he warns against what he calls a culture of fear. In his book Invitation to Terror he describes how it leads to fatalistic attitudes. Pessimism, vulnerability and fear of terrorism. And according to Furedi, such an attitude and such thinking produces a self-fulfilling prophecy an invitation to be terrorized and some terrorists know this. think for instance of the often used phrase, we love death more than you love life, which is aimed to scare a lot of us.

Well, unfortunately, also politicians and policy makers produce slogans that sometimes make terrorists and terrorism bigger and scarier than it is. Slogans like the Global War on Terrorism or the Long War are not always very helpful. They sometimes betray confusion about the threat we face or the size of the threat we face, and according to Faraday it undermines our capacity to engage with it. And he says that it should be stress that the cultural fear entails a much more than just a fear of terrorism. It's part of a what others calls also have pointed at the emergence of a so called risk society which can actually better be translated as a risk avoidance society. it shows how the West in particular has become more vulnerable to accidents, disasters and violent incidents.

Against this background I would like to make a plea for a change of attitude towards terrorism. to limit its impact especially in countries that are not often hit by terrorism, in which terrorism is not a daily threat. Well one of the terms, one of the ideas that has been put forward in the debate on the impact of terrorism on politics and societies is the concept of resilience. Well, this particular concept find its roots in civil engineering psychology and ecology. And, in short, it indicates the capacity of materials, persons or biotopes to resist sudden change or stress. as well as the capacity to recover and to return to its previous state the situation as before. But from the perspective of counter terrorism resistance and resilience may be regard, may be regarded important capacities to deal with the negative impact of terrorism, the fear of terrorism by individuals and societies as a whole. And a resilient society in my eyes is more able to cope and to recover from a terrorist attack, and terrorists who attack a resilient society will find it more difficult to have an impact. And to achieve their goals. Our knowledge of the importance and role of resilience in relation to terrorism and counter-terrorism is limited, but fortunately, in recent years, there has been more research into this field.

And we've also seen a growing number of government reports that look into crisis communication after specific terrorist attacks. Well, this shows that at least in a number of countries, the governments are aware of the negative implications of overreactions. But unfortunately there are still too many cases of terrorism terrorist attacks where the authorities and other actors did not seem to pay much attention to fear management. In the past years, we have been confronted by a, a number of these examples of overreactions to terrorist attacks. think of the handling of the terrorist attack in Boston. The Boston Marathon bombing Many things went pretty well but in my eyes there was also an overreaction after the killing of three people and wounding of a lot of people by two perpetrators. And the same holds for the attack on the British soldier in Woolwich, London. I think in both cases the perpetrators got the attention they wanted and that in itself in my eyes is a good reason to do more to limit the impact of their deeds.

Well with that in mind, and given the indirect and long-term costs of fear of terrorism it seems high time to focus. on communication and resilience as an integral part of our counter-terrorism policies. we not only limit need to limit the chance that terrorists will strike us but we also have to make sure that when they do, the impact of their deeds will be limited.

In sum, in this video we discussed the impact of fear of terrorism on societies, and we argued why it is important to limit fear and to increase resilience to terrorism. In the next video, we'll look at fear impact management and ways to increase resilience of communities and societies.

5.4 Fear and impact management

Hello, in the previous video, I made a plea for fear management as part of counter-terrorism policies. And I also mentioned the lack of knowledge in this field. Against this backdrop my colleague [UNKNOWN] and I looked into the still limited number of handbooks and strategies that focus on how to deal with fear. before, during and after a terrorist, terrorist attack or other terrorism related incident. Well, these documents are mainly from the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands. Also some interesting materials from Denmark. And they provide us with best practices in the following three domains.

First, best practices on the organization of fear management. How do you organize that? What should governments do? Then the second category relates to communication, and the third category relates to resilience to terrorism. Regarding the organization of fear management, the key question is, how can governments and auto-relevant actors limit the impact of terrorism by reducing fear, anxiety, and intimidation?

One of the most obvious and most often mentioned conclusion is that they should cooperate and coordinate. Very obvious conclusion, but again, very important. They have to cooperate and coordinate. also very important is the need to, know what the other ones are doing. have sets of protocols. And also mentioned, is the need to practice together. Was specifically mentioned in several reports and studies, is the need to establish partnerships with the public and with the media. The government should engage with the media and also very specific group that requires partnership is representatives, spokespersons of ethnic, cultural or religious minorities. The idea is that they should work together with the government and the government with them to deal with public unrest and tensions, and to make sure that an increase in fear and anxiety is prevented.

Or finally, fear management should include the monitoring of reactions to government measures, government performance. and ideally you do that at home, in your home country, but also abroad as many of the terrorist incidents have an international dimension. Regarding communication, the key challenge is determining the goals and content of communication. And we believe, having studied all these documents, that the starting point should be to listen to the public's concerns. While other valuable best practices and recommendations include the, to be honest to be frank and open and avoid being unnecessarily secretive.

Another set of recommendations is that you communicate with compassion with concern and with empathy. Well, in case of an incident, the first hour is regarded a vital hour, the golden hour that can set the tone for the rest of the handling of the communication of the crisis. In this case, a terrorist incident. in the initial phase, it's very important to provide the public with facts. And also with advisory measures to the public. explain and clarify what's going on. And why certain measures and decisions have been taken. Confirm and deny rumors as quickly as possible.

Well, despite an incomplete picture, and in most cases of terrorism-related instances there is an incomplete picture. It is important to come up with a clear and concise message of what is going on. one tone of voice is also very important. And even if there is not much to communicate you are advised to continue communicating with the public. No news is also news, and if you do not provide news. And if there is a lack of communication information, you give room to speculation by the media or by the public.

Well, the authorities are also advised to be aware of the risks of an over-reaction. They should not play into the hands of terrorism. and you can do that by avoiding unnecessary rhetoric or alarmist words. And it's also very important that policy makers, officials, realize that there's also a message in the physical measures they are taking. think of helicopters in the air. special arrest teams on the street. it's not just a measure. There's also a message involved in that. And you have to be aware of that. Again, explain what's going on to the public.

And at the same time you have to monitor what's going on among the public. Of course, through social media you can see how they react to what you are doing. Well and the overall goal of communication should be to limit. the impact of an incidence and the normalization of society. So,

the idea is to go back to business as Soon as possible, back to normality as possible. But, of course, also, paying attention to aftercare and stress and emotions among the public.

One of the most important recommendations on resilience is providing self-efficacy. The authorities should advise the public how they can be of help or how people can help themselves. People do not want to be mere victims or bystanders. They want to do something. They see something terrible, they want to do something. They want to be of help. For instance, by giving first aid or providing images to the police using their mobile phones. Or to join a demonstration in the days after an attack saying no to terrorism. And we've seen a number of examples of that in recent years. this could contribute to an increase of resilience and can further help to reduce the chance of excessive fear. Overreactions and tensions between different parts of society. And providing the general public with advising measures also holds for later stages of the crisis.

And that brings to me to a second set of recommendations and lessons learned. this relates to care for the public. And authorities are advised not to only focus on the direct victims. the, the, the dead and wounded, but also on those who survived and who are possibly traumatized because of what they've seen and experienced. And the idea is that monitoring these indirect victims and taking care of these indirect victims is important. Also with an eye to prevent all kinds of second-order effects such as polarization, tension between groups, and the spread of fear and anxiety. And connected to this is, and mentioned earlier, that is that this can be limited by including representatives of various minorities, and, and other groups. To make agreements on their possible role, to deal with public unrest and possible tensions.

These lessons learned and recommendations can be of great value to limit the possibility that terrorists get what they want. Seriously intimidating a population, and destabilizing a country. And there's, these are some of the main Goal of terrorists, I believe it's very important to incorporate. fear management, impact management into general counterterrorism policies.

Of course, next to the very important efforts to limit the chance of a terrorist attack as, as much as possible. Well, fortunately, in recent year, increasing attention has been paid to the organization and com, and, and practice of communication, crisis communication as well as the increase of resilience to terrorism. And hopefully a growing number of authorities will realize that if it will, if we can make it more difficult for terrorists to have an impact on society. This instrument, this terrorism can become, in the long run, a less rewarding and less effective instrument than it is today.

So, what have we learned? In this video, we looked at lessons learned derived from handbooks and strategies on fear management related to terrorism. And, we looked at the organizational fear management, communication, and resilience. And in the next video, we will explore the future of terrorism, terrorism policies, and terrorism research.

5.5 Future of terrorism

Hi. In the previous video, we've looked at fear and fear management, in relation to terrorism. And in this video, we're going to explore the future of terrorism. What can we expect in the years to come? What type of terrorist groups, type of attacks, will we be confronted with, in let's say, five or ten years from now? Well of course I don't have a crystal ball, and it's impossible to predict the future. But we can look at root causes, trends, And developments, and develop scenarios that give us a little a little bit more insight into possible futures of terrorism. So what are we going to do?

First, we are going to look at past attempts at scenarios, and futures forecasts of terrorism. And next we will see how we can build on these achievements of past attempts. And how we can add to this body of knowledge, by making use of your insights as a follow-up to the questionnaire that we provided in the first week of this course.

Considering the complexity of the phenomenon of terrorism, it's actually surprising to see how many people have tried to look into its future. And the number of predictions or forecasts have increased dramatically, after 9/11. But unfortunately, so far, the general outcome of these studies is relativity poor. we see that a lot of scholars or experts find it very difficult to forecast changes in the modus operandi of terrorism. the changes in the use of tactics and weapons. And the attacks on 9/11 are a case in point. Well although the 9/11 Commission speaks of a shock and not a surprise. Here you have a copy of the report of the 9/11 Commission. it say, it says that there we apparent analytical failures on the part of those who were supposed to keep the United States safe from terrorism. And in their chapter Foresight and Hindsight they actually present what perhaps is the biggest failure, and that is the failure of imagination. They didn't see it coming. A failure of imagination. Well, when looking at publications on the future of terrorism by think tanks, academia, and government agencies it appeared after 9/11.

We see many different types of forecasts, with different intentions different methodologies, if they have any meh, methodology, and different purposes. Well unfortunately, many studies are Rather vague, and very imprecise regarding their prediction. They're not very transparent. however, most arrive at three very obvious and not very specific general conclusions. And these three main conclusions are the following, again, some of them, or maybe all of them are very obvious.

The first one is, terrorism will continue to exist in the future. And the second one is, terrorism is not static, but a changing phenomenon that is likely to change in the future. And then the third general conclusion looks into why it's still changing in the future. And it says that these changes will be influenced by structural factors, be it geo, geopolitical, demographical, technological or ideological. This raises the question, to what extent these studies actually contribute to more insight into what is yet to come.

Moreover the vagueness or lack of methodology, and the lack of a proper theoretical foundation of these studies should be mentioned. as a result, the body of literature provides, actually, only limited insight about the causes of change, and what factors are deemed to be more important in shaping the future of terrorism, than others. But there are exceptions to the rule, and I would like to mention this book by Brynjar Lia, Globalization and the Future of Terrorism Patterns and Predictions. A great book about the future of terrorism, looking actually at these patterns and predictions.

Well, what I, I would also like to stress, is that most of the forecasts on terrorism, actually tell us more about today's terrorism, than terrorism in the future. In fact in most cases, current trends and latest incidents, dominate the reports and studies. And this should not necessarily be considered negatively, as the future, or tomorrow is very often more or less the same as today.

However from time to time, we do know that terrorists manage to surprise us with new types of attack, attacks or different types of groups, sometimes with means that we could hardly imagine. So therefore, we cannot afford to simply expect the future of terrorism to be more or less the same as today. at least if we want to avoid unpleasant surprises we cannot permit another failure of imagination a was, as was the case with 9/11. So, we need to be able to look beyond today, or at least to have some idea of what the future might bring.

Well, in a report for the ICT and in a study for the Journal for Strategic Security. I noted, noticed that most future forecasts are made by persons, mainly men, who deal with counterterrorism on a daily basis, who are mainly from Western countries. A, and among them are people who didn't see 9/11 coming, and who produce reports that are not very transparent, nor systematic in their approach in forecasting terrorism. Therefore I argued for a more systematic approachbusing fresh pair of eyes.

And I also suggested that we should ask a more geographically and gender-balanced group. Including young, non-expert persons to help us to look into the future of terrorism. And we suggested to do so by way of a survey. Well, such an approach is not an Alternative to the existing body of literature on for future forecasts. But it could contribute to a more systematic and broader approach to look into the future of terrorism, and might also produce more imagination, more out-of-the-box thinking.

Well, as we have learned from the questionnaire's in the first four weeks, we know that this group is capable of providing excellent ideas. And we believe that you could be actually of great help to policymakers and scholars and you can offer interesting ideas because of your global perspective. Because you have a fresh pair of eyes, or, and that holds for some of you, by a way of your experience in the field of security, that is not directly linked to terrorism. Well in order to use this unique potential of this community, we came up with a questionnaire on root causes and key developments, that might shape the future of terrorism. And we also want to ask you again, but now in more detail, about a possible fifth wave of terrorism again linked to the article by David Rappaport which we presented in the first week. Well please have a look at the questions, and you can do us a great favor if you would take the time to fill this out. Again, we really feel that this group has a great potential to provide both policy makers and scholars with new and different insights, into possible trends and developments that will determine the future of terrorism. That will determine also, future policy making and future research into terrorism.

To sum up, in this video we explored attempts to forecast the future of terrorism. And we notice that many studies do not arrive at very specific outcomes, very specific conclusions. And partly as a result of this, from time to time, terrorists manage to surprise us. Therefore, we need to improve our forecast, and to that end, also, the questionnaire on the future of terrorism. In the next video I will look at the course objectives and say a few words about the research, the discussion forum, and I would like to thank all the people that made this course possible.

6 Final video: Reflection on the course, the learning outcomes and looking forward

Hello. This is the final video of the final week of this course on Terrorism and Counter Terrorism. Time to look back, time to look back also at the initial goals that we formulated. What we hoped to achieve with this goals of, with this course, and, and to also look back at what we achieved. So what were the goals that we hope to achieve? Well we hope that you would learn about the following. The notion of terrorism, as an instrument to achieve certain political goals. And also the difficulties and importance of definitions of terrorism. And we hope to tell you more and to give you a better idea, of the state of the art of terrorism and counter terrorism studies, in particular, its results of the last ten years.

Also very important to us is to confront you, and to teach you more about theoretical notions, as well as practical examples, that help you to better understand and critique counter terrorism, policies or approaches to counter terrorism. And the same holds for theoretical notions, as well as practical examples, that will help you to better understand the essence of terrorism. What is it about, and what can we do about it?

Well of course, it's not up to me to decide, to what extent we have achieved these goals. but you could help us and you can tell us, what you think about this course, by way of the evaluation, which we will send to you by mail or you can use the feedback forum. What else is there to do in the last video, after five weeks of learn, of this learning and research experience? Well, perhaps you, to tell you what I learned from this course.

Well to me, it was a very interesting experience. I learned a lot from the differences of opinion between the Courserians, as well as difference of opinion between you and me. We don't always share the same ideas, and I realize that I have a, Western way of looking at terrorism and counter terrorism. I also learned a lot from the discussion forum. and I was very much surprised that, although terrorism and counter terrorism are very subjective and sensitive topics, that we managed to to have a very polite, respectful discussion, at a high level. and that was perhaps, one of the biggest surprises to me.

I also learned that a very international mixed group of people including students experts in the field of security studies and, and many others with an interest in terrorism, can come up with, with great ideas. can share literature tips regarding movies, provide a lot of information on, on many different subjects. For instance, and I like to use this course to that end, to provide us with out of the box thinking, new ideas about the future of terrorism, for instance. So, that was a great experience and, and I learned a lot from it.

I was also impressed by the many people who responded to the questionnaires, and you provided us with many insights, and, and many data. in fact, we soon realized that all the, the materials, the amount and the quality, that we, we, we got from the questionnaires and, and the questions, and the, the discussion forum, was too much for us to analyze very quickly, and immediately present. So for us, the course has not ended, we will have to do a lot of work in analyzing all this data, all this insight you gave us. And we will translate it into briefs, publications, that we will post on the course dashboard, which will remain open for another few weeks. And we will use a a LinkedIn group called Leiden University online course Terrorism and Counter terrorism to make sure that all the briefs or papers, or whatever we produce, will be available to you. So it's the LinkedIn group Leiden University online course, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism. so we learned a lot, and, and, we'll even learn more, thanks to your research input.

And this is the reason, why we like, would like to offer this course a second time. So we will have a relaunch. Initially we thought of mid-December, but I guess that the holidays is not the best time to start any course, and particularly not one on, political violence. so we decided to start in January, a new year, 2014. A new chance for those who have not done this course so far, to start this course on terrorism and counter-terrorism. You would do us a great favor, if you would inform friends, colleagues about this course, of course, only if you liked it. there is a chance for them as well, to start this course early January 2014. The 6th of January, to be precise. Well a second launch means that obviously I like to develop and present this course. Although I have to stress that, it was a lot

more, a lot bigger effort, and much more investment, than I initially thought. But, I liked to do it because of your reactions, your input.

Again, the questionnaires, the discussion forum, the course wiki. and many of you I have to thank. but I will say a special thanks to our top dozen posters, that contributed to the discussion forum. And these are Jenny Glynn from the UK, Valeria Hernandez Reyes from Mexico, Claire van Beers [FOREIGN] Charles Cameron and Bob Boss from the United States. Amjad Hussein from Pakistan, Arete from the UK, and Gary John Davis from Canada. Ernst Schnell and Stewart from the United Kingdom, and Anna from the United States, and Deepa from India. Thank you very much and thank you, all who contributed to the Discussion Forum, or who added something to the course wiki.

While I also liked providing this course because of the great people who helped me making this possible, and whose help was actually essential, to the success of this course. a big thank you to [FOREIGN] the course or project manager, well, responsible for virtually everything. So, thank you very much Jeanine, you're actually recording this, as we speak. And I would also like to thank Thomas Hershkins, who did most of the recording, most of the filming. Thank you very much for your patience also, not only while filming this but, also having to look at my face, and hearing me talk for hours on end, while doing the editing, which was also a lot of work. So, thank you very much for that.

Also, a big thank you to two persons, [FOREIGN] from the Center of Innovation of Leiden University, who made this course possible, behind the set, in the boardrooms of this university. Whose rector, and particularly, Vice Rector Simone [FOREIGN]. Strongly supported this investment in innovation, in research and education. So thank you very much. And there're many other people at Leiden University that I, I would like to thank. Many people contributed, ranging from well, the neighbors, actually here. The, the neighbors of the, the offices who had to remain silent on many recording days they were very patient. They were not always silent, but they tried at least, so thank you very much for your patience. and, and other people ranging from interns to educational experts, that one way or another, contributed to the success of this course.

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