

Arlinda Muharemi

## The Role of Intelligence Services against Terrorism

### Abstract

I have chosen the topic of the role of secret services against terrorism as a multidimensional phenomenon to include terrorism, criminal behaviour, prevention and resilience. In order for the intelligence services to successfully accomplish their role in their fight against terrorism, they should carry out the following activities: infiltration discovery of the action plans of the terrorist group, convey the collected information to intelligence services. The study approach will take into consideration special instruments against terrorism, armed forces against terrorism as well as international cooperation against terrorism. We will also rely on the analyses made on terrorist warnings and threat assessments.

**Keywords:** terrorism, intelligence services, national strategies, armed forces, international cooperation

### Introduction

Terrorism as a phenomenon, for intelligence services, is complex and chaotic. Groups of conspirators form scenarios, they do not discuss their plans with anyone and are cautious when buying or obtaining supplies, so they do not arouse suspicion. They live normally, so the question is: how to uncover their plot? The goal of intelligence services is not only to apprehend terrorists but also anyone who could potentially carry out a terrorist attack in the future. The best point of counterintelligence focus is

the individual terrorist scenario. Some of the most important limitations in gathering information about terrorism are inherent in the tool and the way terrorists operate. The anti-terrorist role that intelligence services should play is to uncover terrorist conspiracies so that they can be prevented or planned intentions can be appropriately protected from the terrorists' aims.

Undoubtedly, intelligence services should do everything in their power to increase the likelihood of gathering information about these plots. The greatest contribution of intelligence services to the fight against terrorism is gathering information about individual terrorists, terrorist leaders, cells and groups. The information gathered can be very specific. Terrorists are very cautious in carrying out their attacks, but they do not live and operate under complete protection because they have identities, meet, move and communicate. With such sufficient facts, potential terrorists can be arrested, infiltrated, pursued, or criminally prosecuted. Cells can be dismantled, and their members can be left to be questioned, which can be presented to any organisation.

To successfully fulfil its role in the fight against terrorism, intelligence services should carry out the following activities:

- Phase 1: Infiltration – penetration of the intelligence service (either detective or collaborator of the service) into the structure of the specific terrorist group.
- Phase 2: Discovery of terrorist action plans, identification of members (terrorist group), identification of the identity of state apparatus members who are terrorist collaborators–assistants.
- Phase 3: Transmission of information collected by intelligence services, further analysis and distribution to relevant state authorities.

Counterintelligence, as part of intelligence services, supports other counterterrorism instruments in many ways, much more than warning and assessing the terrorist threat. Dealing with the nature and activities of extremist groups provides the basis, for example, for decisions on foreign terrorist organisations. It also contributes to the activities of state sponsors of terrorism. It supports diplomacy, not only by informing official bodies that certain decisions should be made and convincing other governments to cooperate in the fight against terrorism but also by preparing materials that can be distributed to other governments.

Analysis of counterintelligence for terrorism is an analysis from any source. They can be human and technical resources and everything that is publicly available. Data collection function is the heart of tactical-level analytical work performed by

Table 1: *Spectrum of terrorist warnings and threat assessment*

	<i>Threat information flows</i>	<i>The specifics of the plot</i>	<i>Tactics</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Main strategy</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Information specifics</i>	Location	The correct address	Some cities	Country or region	Regions	Across the world
	Time	The exact date	Days and weeks	Weeks and months	Months and years	Years and decades
	Purpose	Uncover the plot Dislocation of the location	Short-term measures, beware of the perpetrator	Raising the level of care with vital security measures	Some categories of interests	Legislation Large national programs
<i>Against possible measures</i>		Uncover the plot Dislocation of the location	Short-term measures, beware of the perpetrator	Raising the level of care with vital security measures	New permanent physical measures and procedures	Legislation Large national programs

Source: CRONIN-LUDES 2004.

counterintelligence agencies through various purposes for verification and other information techniques (Table 1).

It should also be emphasised the work of counterintelligence agencies in terms of informing the policy maker about the scope of threats, the development of threats, the relative security of any model, indications that one is more desirable than another, and the implication of national interests for each of the possibilities. Unfortunately, it must be emphasised that in a world where counterintelligence information will always succeed in predicting terrorist attacks, they will never become a reality because in such a world, there will be no terrorism.

### Special instruments against terrorism

The international strategy to combat terrorism also implies the involvement of a series of non-military instruments aimed at preventing and combating terrorism, a fight that involves the implementation of various psychological and political instruments.

In this context, state and non-state organisations can take a range of psychological and political activities that relate to neutral or friendly sides, but also to hostile ones.

The main goal of psycho-political activity is considered to be the projection of strategic influence. According to American sources, the fight against terrorism has some similarities with the early years of the Cold War when the ideological dimensions of the East–West conflict were highlighted. Then, the United States established specialised tools for implementing activities during the Cold War. These tools include the American intelligence agency, the military and psychological operations, secret propaganda and the White House Psychological Strategy Board. Psycho-political activities are linked to the functioning of public affairs on the one hand and military activities or humanitarian operations on the other, which are undertaken as a form of psychological and political effect. Political psychological activities can be grouped into three categories: diplomacy, counterintelligence operations and secret political activities. Public diplomacy aims to involve a range of government programs from general areas of external communication, education, cultural exchange and public policy actions. The term “political action” encompasses activities designed to influence political groups and processes in the world. In most cases, psychological operations are lightweight, straightforward and highly tactical, for example, encouraging surrender or warning civilian populations to evacuate the region to be attacked. On the other hand, with a greater strategic effect, they become tactically sensitive and tend to attract the attention of high-level government officials. At the border between psychological operations and public diplomacy lies a gray area, which over time complicates the institutional use of these actions. At the strategic level, most psychological operations can be strictly distinguished from what might be called public diplomacy.

### **Military forces against terrorism**

Before we elaborate in detail, it is interesting to see that theorists wonder whether terrorism is a type of war. Experts believe that if terrorism is defined as the exacerbation of fear through violence or abuse to achieve political goals, it follows that terrorism should create force where it is lacking or strengthen it where it is small. Through publicity created by expressive violence, terrorists seek to preserve the influence that will affect political changes at the local or international level. American Admiral J. C. Vail points out that in many cases, terrorists use a cumulative approach where

sequences or parts of activities are not important. What is important is the cumulative effect – a general approach to the range of attacks and individual shocks. The fight against terrorism demonstrates a discontinuity in the use of military force in response to terrorism. There is now greater openness to the use of military force based on the right to self-defence against terrorism. Terrorist forces, in most cases, fight at a tactical level on difficult terrain without paying much attention to civilian casualties, thus neutralising military priorities for precision weapons for war, masses and military manoeuvres. There is an exception to the use of military force in terrorist centres, as many of these centres are either in other states or in neutral states, thus undermining the political dimension of military intervention. A particular obstacle to the use of military force against strong terrorist organisations is their lack of centralisation, as in many cases they are more organised as a network rather than a hierarchy.

As a result, such terrorist organisations are relatively resistant to military operations, so fixed networks and centres of gravity are attacked in most cases by non-military organisations. Military forces can provide military support to strengthen legal operations against terrorism. The army may be asked to cooperate with military counterintelligence services.

The involvement of military forces in the fight against terrorism also raises the issue of applying the laws of war in counterterrorism operations, because:

- Not all terrorist activities or all counterterrorism combat operations (even when they have an international dimension) contribute to the military conflict between states. The terrorist movements themselves often have a non-state character.
- Counterterrorism operations may mean forms of action against forces operating on the territory or border actions against the state supporting terrorist acts.
- In many cases, the attributes and activities of the terrorist movement must not be in the hands of bodies related to international armed conflict law.
- Since terrorist forces often have little respect for international rules, the decision to use counterterrorism forces to implement them may weaken these forces with expectations of reciprocity.
- The fundamental principle of the laws of war is that attacks should be directed directly against enemy forces, not civilians. This principle, which is violated by terrorist attacks, can be seriously applied in counterterrorism operations, as terrorist movements do not consist of defined military forces that clearly distance themselves from civilians. Some prisoners who are members of terrorist organisations do not meet the status provided for in the Third Geneva Convention.

## International cooperation against terrorism

Terrorist acts can be committed on the territory of one state or conducted against foreign nationals or opponents in the state. When terrorism is carried out outside the borders of one state or carried out against the economic, political, or cultural interests of a foreign state, it is considered international terrorism. Nations suffering from terrorism join the global anti-terrorist coalition because they preserve not only interstate but also regional and international interests. This defines the need for genuine interstate cooperation. Interstate cooperation gains weight because terrorist organisations do not recognise borders and spread their activities in the form of networks throughout the territory of many states. In this way, they become less vulnerable and less recognisable. Not coincidentally, in United Nations documents and European documents, an important place is devoted to bilateral and multilateral cooperation among states, which is realised:

- in the form of exchange of information between the police and intelligence services (their information)
- in the form of harmonising plans in the fight against terrorist acts
- in the form of ongoing cooperation in detecting a specific terrorist act
- in the form of harmonising laws and other legal acts

International cooperation in the fight against terrorism has intensified, especially after the end of the Cold War, including cooperation between Russian and American, Russian and British, Russian and Israeli intelligence services. Bilateral cooperation is also marked between countries such as Italy and France, Italy and Germany, the USA and Saudi Arabia, the U.K. and the Czech Republic, the U.K. and Slovakia. Since the 1990s, there has been an important initiative for multilateral cooperation among states. The importance of Interpol in the fight against terrorism should be emphasised, as it provides assistance to the police in various countries within legal frameworks and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, establishing and developing all institutions that will effectively contribute to the prevention and fight against common crimes. Until 1994, Interpol did not include politically motivated terrorism in its scope. Since 1995, Interpol has begun to act on terrorist incidents that have occurred in various parts of Europe. In addition to Interpol, at the proposal of the former German Chancellor, Europe is envisaged as a secret police agency based in The Hague, where liaison officers from certain European countries exchange information and coordinate activities related to relevant issues. Europe can exchange information but cannot conduct investigations. An important form of multilateral cooperation is also international meetings, agreements

and conventions of an international nature. Only in 1996, in six different countries around the world, six international meetings on terrorism were held as key issues. It can be said that when it comes to international cooperation against terrorism, it is at a high and successful level, but there are also some factors that hinder this cooperation, such as the lack of special laws in some countries, little experience in some Western democracies, the reluctance to sacrifice or jeopardise commercial opportunities, fear of retaliatory actions, and different standards related to the concept of terrorist acts and their perpetrators.

## References

- ZERAR, Shalian – BLIN, Arno (2009): *History of Terrorism*. Skopje: Tabernakul.
- GELKE, Adrian (2009): *A New Era for Terrorism and International Political System*. Skopje: Magor.
- SCHMID, Alex P. (1983): *Political Terrorism. A Research Guide to Concepts, Theories, Data Bases and Literature*. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing – New Brunswick: Transaction Books.
- BAJGORA, Ali (1998): *Violations of Human Rights and Freedoms in Kosovo*. Pristina: s. l.
- MAKRA, Andrija (1979): *Modern Terrorism*. Zagreb: s. l.
- KOTOVCHEVSKI, Mitko (2003): *Modern Terrorism*. Skopje: Macedonian civilisation.
- BABOVIĆ, Budimir (1987): *International Terrorism and Interpol*. Belgrade: s. l.
- CHEMIN, Bernard (1987): *Combatting Terrorism*. Zagreb: s. l.
- KLIRIN, Mirko (1978): *Terrorism*. Belgrade: s. l.
- CRONIN, Audrey K. – LUDS, James M. eds. (2004): *Attacking Terrorism. Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- RUSSELL, Charles (1989): *Profiles of Terrorists*. Zagreb: s. l.
- DEMOLI, Haki (2002): *Terrorism*. Pristina: University of Pristina.
- HALILI, Ragip (2011): *Criminology*. Pristina: University of Pristina.
- SALIHU, Ismet (2008): *Criminal Law – General Part*. Pristina: University of Pristina.
- SALIHU, Ismet (2007): *Criminal Law – Special Part*. Pristina: University of Pristina.

## Legal sources

- Criminal Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Official Gazette No. 37/96, 80/99, 4/2002, 43/03
- Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, No. 48/2001
- Concept of National Defence and Security of the Republic of North Macedonia, Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia, No. 74/2001