

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The question of threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks

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Introduction

The international society is facing a dramatic increase of global terrorism which threatens the international peace and stability of the modern world. More jobs were created and the amount of funding provided by extremist terrorist groups has increased which threaten the world peace. Attacks towards innocent civilians have been ever rising in countries which are politically unstable and economically less developed.

The cruelty of terrorism around the world does not only affect the current world but also future generations. The devastating consequences of terrorist attacks are a deep concern and the United Nations, for decades, has been trying to resolve this issue. International terrorism that happens around the world is one of the greatest challenges that need to be overcome in the modern world. The actions of the terrorist groups are becoming even more violent in modern society; it now requires involvement of major member states of the United Nations.

Since 1980s until now, there were serious numbers of terrorist attacks that have happened around the world, everywhere. Terrorist attacks were committed by mainly Islamist terrorists such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaeda and Taliban. The Security Council of the United Nations has been cooperating to eliminate terrorist attacks, especially from Islamist terrorists, but this wasn't as successful as what it should've been due to the international movements of the terrorist organisations and the fact that their headquarters are located widely across various nations.

Recent terrorist attacks were mostly done by Islamist terrorists, especially ISIL and Al-Qaeda. More than 350 terrors were committed just in 2015. There is no exact statistics of how many people were killed by these terrorists, but it is roughly estimated that ISIL killed more than 10,000 people since 2014.

One of the ways used by the terrorist organisations to strengthen their organisations is by maximizing their income to use for their terrorist attacks and also by increasing their social status in their home countries. Most terrorist groups also act as a substitute of a social system to support local civilians in their home countries and gain more support from their civilians. As

well as helping the local civilians, they are involved in enriching the lives of the citizens so that some civilians would join their groups, who see this as a way of escaping their own poverty.

Definition of Key terms

Jihad

An Islamic term referring to the duty of Muslims, which is supporting and maintaining their religion. Definitions of Jihad vary on the groups of Muslims, while Indonesian Muslims define Jihad as 'sacrificing one's life for the sake of Islam', Muslims in Lebanon, Kuwait, Jordan and Morocco and the majority define Jihad as 'duty towards God'. There are many different types of Jihad depending on each situation such as 'Jihad of the heart', 'Jihad by the tongue', but the general purpose of Jihad and the belief that it is fine to sacrifice one's life for God does not change. The reason for the terrorist attacks by Muslims is basically to maintain and protect their belief of Jihad that they have to protect the God which they believe in.

Terrorism

A threat to an organization, or possibly to a country, which causes a wide intimidation, fear and disruption. Terrorists use violence in order to publicise their beliefs, religions and motivate any others who do not share similar ideas with them. They usually try to influence government policies and refuse to follow the current government policies and procedures. Terrorism can result in a serious violence, damages, and threats, risks to health and safety and serious interference or disruption to a system.

This is just one of the 'classic definitions' of terrorism but there is no official and right definition of terrorism. However, in 1996, General Assembly of the United Nations has defined it as follows: "Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes."

Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)

CTC was established by Security Council after adopting resolution 1373 in 2001. This establishment was done in response to the terrorist attacks happened on of September 11, 2001. Counter-Terrorism Committee requested member states in Security Council to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home. Tasks included: criminalizing the financing of terrorism, deny all forms of financial support of terrorist groups, cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in such acts.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

CTED was established in 2004 in order to assist the work of CTC. CTED is divided into two sections: Assessment and Technical Assistance Office (ATAO), which identifies technical

issues, provides technical assistances, terrorist financing, border control and Administrative and Information Office (AIO).

Background Information

Although acts of terrorism became more serious and violent in the 20th and 21st centuries as technology develops, the terror itself is not really a new topic to the world society. The United Nations has noticed its seriousness and emphasised the importance of resolving this issue since September 11 attacks that happened in the United States of America. The specific causes of terrorism are numerous; most of the attacks can be divided into two purposes: ideological and strategic.

Ideological

The majority of the terrorist attacks occur on the purpose of their ideology. The word ideology in this matter includes factors such as religions, beliefs, demands and possibly politics. The most general example of groups committing terror based on the purpose of ideological are Muslims, but more specifically, named organisations include:

Al-Qaeda

One of the most typical examples of terrorist organizations which their main base is located in Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Al-Qaeda was established and led by Osama Bin Laden until 2011, before his death. Al-Qaeda was established when Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan, but as soon as the problem was resolved; it soon had its own ideology and goals. The current leader of Al-Qaeda is Ayman al-Zawahiri, due to assassination of Bin Laden led by joint operation by U.S. troops and CIA in May 2011. The goal of Al-Qaeda is to establish one Islamic Arab Nation on the Earth and get rid of any other nations against this. Al-Qaeda specifically aims to get rid of American influence from all Arab countries and any Arab countries which are in favour of Western countries. Financial supporters of Al-Qaeda are Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The most famous secretive attacks by Al-Qaeda include September 11st attacks in the United States of America, bombings in Madrid in 2004 and in London in 2005.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant are most commonly called as 'ISIL' for short abbreviation or 'ISIS'. There has been a recent argument that they should be called as 'Daesh' rather than 'ISIL' or 'ISIS'. Daesh stands for their Arabic name, Dawlat al-Islamiyah f'al-Iraq wa Belaad al-Sham. They hate themselves being called as Daesh as the word Daesh sounds similar to Arabic word 'das', which means to trample down or to crush. They hate this word so much that they threatened to cut the tongues of anyone who uses it in public.

The level of violence of ISIL has been increased massively, especially these days. Due to the assassination of Bin Laden, the violence of Al-Qaeda has significantly decreased; violence of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is more of an issue these days. The recent terror includes Ankara bombings in October 2015 in Turkey, Beirut bombings in November 2015 in Lebanon and attacks in November 2015 in Paris. Even few days before writing this chair report, there was a bombing in Libya in January 2016. The most recent attack was Jakarta attacks in January 2016. Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta was attacked for not following 'Jihad' of the Muslims. Indonesia was attacked for not sacrificing themselves for their beliefs, religions and Gods unlike most Islamic countries such as Kuwait.

Taliban

Taliban is an Islamic fundamentalist movement in Afghanistan which is involved in on-going military conflicts in Afghanistan. The current leader of Taliban is Mullah Akhtar Mansoor but there is a rumour that he was assassinated or badly wounded. One of the most shocking policies of Taliban is that it abandoned women from interacting with the society. What it means by abandoned women from interacting with the society is that, they were no longer allowed to be educated under Taliban's rule, they were forced to stay at homes, they were forced to wear 'Bourca' which covers the women from their head to their toes except their noses and eyes. The establishment of Taliban was after the civil war in Afghanistan and after this civil war, Taliban wishes to take over the government of Afghanistan. Most of the attacks carried out by Taliban were in either Afghanistan or Pakistan whereas for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaeda's attacks are international. Al-Qaeda is known to be a far more violent extremist group.

Boko Haram

Boko Haram is basically a sub-branch of ISIL. Boko Haram calls themselves as a 'group of the people of Sunnah for preaching and Jihad'. Since its establishment in 2009, it is rising as one of the most violent and active terror organisations, killing more than 20,000 people and displacing 2.3 million away from their homes. Under the lead of Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram is active in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Benin. Boko Haram especially abandons Muslims to be engaged in Western society, which includes voting in elections, wearing shirts and trousers as well as receiving proper education. This group has launched attacks against schools, politicians, polices and anyone who goes against their group. The main active site of Boko Haram is Nigeria; after its insurgency since 2009, the government of Nigeria has planned to wipe out this destructive terror group completely. Troops of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger formed an alliance and started to retrieve any lost towns taken by Boko Haram. By March 2015, Boko Haram had lost all of their towns under control and it seems that they are losing control over Nigeria as time passes. Although it was reported from Amnesty International that over 2,000 children are in captivity of Boko Haram and they are still to be freed, the reality that Boko Haram is losing its control in Nigeria is undeniable. Even though the terrorizing group Boko Haram still exists and is active in Nigeria in particular, many fighters of Boko Haram are killed and weapons seized. It is too early to wipe Boko Haram off completely yet its power starts to dim.

Abu-Nidal Organisation (ANO)

Abu-Nidal Organisation is an international terrorist group which has operated in more than 20 countries including the United Kingdom, Israel, France and moderate Palestinians (PLO). This organisation has killed and injured more than 900 people and it was far stronger than it is today. Major attacks of Abu-Nidal Organisation include Rome and Vienna airport attacks in December 1985. After the death of Sabri al-Banna (also known as Abu-Nidal) in 2002, the new leader and the structure of the organisation are unclear at the moment. It has operated widely in Middle East, Asia and Europe and due to lack of financial aids and internal disorganisation, the size of the group and capabilities have decreased significantly.

Japanese Red Army (JRA)

Japanese Red Army is formed in 1970 after breaking away from 'Japanese Communist League Red Army Faction'. The leader of the group was Fusako Shigenobu and she was an active leader of the organisation until her arrest in 2000. The purpose of the establishment of this group is to overthrow the Japanese government and the monarchy, as well as starting a world communist revolution. Some of the countries it has operated include Italy, the United States of America, Malaysia and Japan. The leader of the Japanese Red Army, Fusako Shigenobu has stated that she intended to achieve her goals using a legitimate political party rather than using revolutionary violence. As Fusako Shigenobu was arrested by Japanese police, the group announced it would disband in April 2001.

Strategic

Another type of terrorising groups is groups that work for strategic purposes. Unlike Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, there are terrorising groups do not act just for ideological purposes. In fact, some terrorising groups commits terror for both ideological and strategic purposes. There are certain nations that support terrorist groups just for their own benefit. To illustrate, countries like Palestine or Saudi Arabia partly support some terrorising groups such as Al-Qaeda, because of their common goal of eliminating the State of Israel. Nations that support some terrorising groups operate for strategic purposes, for example, reclaiming of formerly owned lands. However, strategic purposes are not very common and it is difficult to find nations supporting terrorising groups just for their own benefit.

Key Issues

The level of violence committed by terrorist groups is getting more violent in modern society. Although some of the terrorist are not as active as before due to the assassination of their leader, the weapons and tactics they use are much more destructive. In 2014 and 2015, ISIL has bombed and committed suicide attacks in major cities such as Paris. This resulted many anti-Muslims. Member states in the United Nations have agreed to try their best addressing and resolving this issue fruitfully. The impact of terrorist groups on people is massive; children are

forced out of their school in Northern Nigeria, local people have evacuated from their homes because their local area was under threat of attack.

Tactics of terrorist groups include rocket and mortar attacks, vehicle-based attacks, aircraft attacks, chemical and biological weapons and conventional firearms. Recently, a British scientist has claimed that Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has recently acquired nuclear weapons. Although this might be just a rumour and no one knows whether ISIL acquired access to nuclear weapon or not, the general trend of making more destructive weapons as time passes is undeniable.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has many branched terrorist groups which act internationally. Boko Haram, for instance, is a part of ISIL and is active in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. The most recent destructive attacks of ISIL includes bombing of Sana'a mosque in Yemen which killed more than 140 people and injured more than 350 people. There is no way to stop ISIL in Yemen hence ISIL is gaining power in Yemen.

ISIL has also carried out its attack in Iraq, where it killed more than 100 people and injured more than 150 people. Although ISIL's threat in Iraq is getting worse, Iraq is reluctant to stop ISIL.

One of the deadliest ISIL attack could be the aircraft attack of Metrojet Flight 9268, flying from Russia to Iraq. More than 250 passengers died and most of them are Russians. The current president of Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin has called ISIL as 'evil Islamic State' and has promised to wipe out ISIL by putting 150,000 soldiers in Syria.

The most deadliest and famous attack of ISIL is its attack in Paris in November 2015. There were bombings, suicide bombings, grenades as well as hostage taking. The prime minister of France, Francois Hollande has promised to attack ISIL 'over and over again' and this promise is currently in action. Using France's aircraft bombings, Syria is under a great threat. The president of Russian Federation and the prime minister of France has agreed to wipe out ISIL completely and any other Islamic State terror organisations after ISIL's attacks in their country.

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is famous for its deadliest attacks against developed nations, for instance, Spain, The Great Britain and the United States of America. In 2004, Al-Qaeda attacked Madrid, the capital city of Spain. Al-Qaeda has bombed Madrid's railway station, killing more than 202 people and injuring 1400 people. Although few Moroccans were arrested as potential suspects, they blew themselves up during a police raid to avoid capture. The prime minister of Spain is blamed for being involved in Iraq War and hence being marked as a target of Al-Qaeda.

In 2005, London, the capital city of the Great Britain, has experienced its worst terrorist attack since World War II. Four bombs exploded in three different subway stations and one exploded in a bus during a rush hour. More than 52 were killed and more than 700 were injured. The

reason for attack according to Al-Qaeda was because the Great Britain was involved in the war between Afghanistan and Iraq. Although four bombers were arrested as suspects and they all have visited Pakistan before, there was no direct evidence that Al-Qaeda was fully supporting them.

The most famous and the deadliest attack by Al-Qaeda was against the United States of America, known as September 11 attacks. There were four subsequent suicide bombings targeting the symbolic landmarks in the United States of America. A flight 77 was bombed and fell on the Pentagon, which was the headquarters of the United States of America's department of defence. The twin towers of the World Trade Centre was also bombed. Al-Qaeda also planned to burn the White House as well, though it failed. More than 3000 people were killed and 6000 were injured. In response to this terror, the government of the United States of America has promised to attack Al-Qaeda back. This was put into an action in 2011; the allied troops of CIA and USA landed on Pakistan in secret by using its stealth aircraft, which is not detected by the aircraft detecting software. The joint operation troops killed Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda, and this was able to make Al-Qaeda be afraid of the United States of America's power.

In order to resolve this issue, there needs to be an action towards elimination of terrorist organisations. The United Nations was alerted by the destructive attacks by Al-Qaeda against the United States of America in September 11 attack and made special committees in response to this: CTC and CTED. The key issue when resolving this issue would be Jihad of the Muslims and their beliefs which they refuse to give up. If all member states of the United Nations wish to resolve this issue flawlessly without destroying these organisations, terrorist organisations and the United States need to comprise to either to give up Muslims' Jihad or promise not to attack other nations to achieve Islamic world but this is highly unlikely to happen.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

State of Israel

State of Israel is a common target by many terrorist groups such as HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement) and Hezbollah (Party of God). In response to these terrorist groups, State of Israel has created Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (PTO) which tries to resolve any threats of terrorist groups in Israel and hence ensures the security of Israeli citizens' security. There are some measure implemented by PTO which includes 'taking away rights and freedoms of an individual who has damaged the rights and freedoms of innocent civilians of the society.'

Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian Arab Republic has been the victim of terrorism since Syrian Civil War. Anti-government Islamists groups, mainly Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant were involved greatly the effects of this organisation affect widely across Syria.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant took over the control of Syria when there the government of Syria was reluctant to do so due to civil war in Syria. After the civil war has ended, Syrian government is trying to destroy ISIL by using its own troops of Free Syria Army militias. Recent issue of Syrian Refugees flowing out of Syrian Arab Republic to European countries is currently under discussion. Although the number of Syrian refugees is increasing, there are limited number of resources available within the country; European countries are acting together to aid any necessary resources. However, because the number of resources are not unlimited, this issue has to be resolved as soon as possible before resources run out and to do that, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant needs to be wiped out completely not only from Syrian Arab Republic, but from the Earth as a whole.

The United States of America

The United States of America fully supports the State of Israel in a sense that both nations are against Islamic terrorist groups. As the world's strongest and greatest country, it is often attacked by Islamic terrorist groups just as what happened in September attack. After September attack, the United States of America has declared war to Islamic terrorist groups. The United States of America is leading the United Nations to resolve the issue of attacks by terrorist groups and was successful in some aspects: was able to cause the fall of Taliban, killed the leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of the event
April 18, 1983	First time to use suicide bombings in Lebanon Civil War against the US Embassy
September 11, 2001	Al-Qaeda bombs four different areas in the United States of America in New York City and Washington D.C
September 20, 2001	The president of the USA, George Bush declares war to Islamic terrorist groups
March 11, 2004	Al-Qaeda carries out Suicide Bombing in Madrid in train station

July 7, 2005	Islamic extremists carry out suicide bombings in the United Kingdom
September 8, 2006	The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is declared. All member states agreed on this strategy to fight against international terrorism
May 2, 2011	Joint operation by the USA's troops and CIA kill Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

International agreements

The United Nations hold regular meeting on the topic of International terrorism and addresses this issue thoroughly, especially after September 11 attack. Member states in Security Council have passed Resolution 1373, which is named as 'Improving International Cooperation'. There has been an obvious progress on the issue of eliminating International terrorism.

Using force and violence

Although this method is considered as a common way to eliminate International terrorist groups, this might cause bitterness of member states and might possibly create even more terrorising groups. However, this method is effective in a sense that it is able to give terrorising groups fear. Previous president of the USA, George Bush has used this method to eliminate terrorising groups against Taliban and Al-Qaeda. In collaboration with NATO members and even non-NATO members, under the lead of the USA, member states of the United Nations were able to overthrow the government of Taliban and kill Osama Bin Laden. However, it is an undeniable fact that more violence brings more violence back; the USA is one of the countries that are under the greatest threat of International terrorising groups.

Negotiation

In any situations of disputes, negotiation is one of the best ways to appease both sides. This way temporarily stops violence and forces. After successful negotiation, a treaty is signed by both sides. A typical example of this is 'Good Friday Agreement', between the UK and Ireland. The United Kingdom successfully appeased Irish Republican Army (IRA). Although some members of IRA were unhappy with the treaties, majority of terrorism was disappeared.

Possible Solutions

Unlike countries such as the USA, there are certain countries which are just not strong enough to fight against the International terrorists. Countries that lack economic or political stability as well as proper education need more help from other countries. As an example, Sudan is a very unstable country having all the features mentioned above. Sudan is one of the countries with most terrorist attacks. Due to the lack of proper laws or legislation, terrorist groups prosper and are able to carry out their attacks in Sudan. Any laws or legislation in the country can completely wipe out the terrorist groups from the country.

An essential solution to this issue will be providing proper education to weak countries so that new generations will be able to learn the importance of interdependence, thus preventing further terrorist attacks.

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