

## Enhancing Public Awareness of Threats and Challenges of Terrorism

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### Abstract

Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or its citizens to further certain political or social objective. Terrorism can take many forms and has many causes, often more than one. It can have its roots in religious, social, or political conflicts, when one community is oppressed by another. Terrorism has been practiced by political organization with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and police. Terrorism is an issue that affects the world and incidents have drawn much more attention since 9/11. Terrorism affects many nations through spreading violence, fear and instability throughout the region. Terrorism is a serious global threat and the rapid advancement in information technology including the popular use of social media by radicalized groups has negative and serious implications for security, stability, and democratic transition. As such, governments and intelligence personnel need for protecting societies, providing “early warning”, or valuable assessments of motive, damage, further impending attacks, etc. Public also need to better understand motivations of terrorists and actively participate in government' counter-terrorism activities. The primary purpose of this research is to increase the knowledge and understanding of people about terrorism.

**Keywords:** Civilian, economic, government, political, target, terrorism, terrorist, threat, violence

### Introduction

Terrorism is the calculated use of violence to create a general climate for fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective. It was first coined in the 1790s to refer to the terror used during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries against their opponents. Although terrorism in this usage implied an act of violence by a state against its domestic enemies, since the 20<sup>th</sup> century the term has been applied most frequently to violence aimed, either directly or indirectly, at governments in an effort to influence policy or topple an existing regime. In order to attract and maintain the publicity necessary to generate widespread fear, terrorists must engage in increasingly dramatic, violent, and high-profile attacks. Generally, as the goal of terrorism is to destroy the public's sense of security in the places most familiar to them, major targets sometimes also include buildings or other locations. The 9/11 attacks in New York were done by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda and resulted in 2977 victim fatalities, over 25000 injures, and caused at least US \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage. Therefore, terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The lack of understanding of the extent of terrorism has led to many governments to implement hasty solutions based on untested assumptions. To prevent and counter terrorism, serious investments are needed to enhance public understanding of causes, threats and impacts of the problems. This research discusses the concept of terrorism, goals, motivation, types, causes and impacts of terrorism.

### Research Questions:

1. What are the motivated factors of terrorism?
2. What are the threats and impacts of terrorism?

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## Research Methodology

In this study, descriptive research design is used. The data have been collected since 2018.

### What is Terrorism?

One defining characteristic of the terrorist is his choice of method; the terrorist chooses violence as the instrument of first resort. Therefore, terrorism can be defined as the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear through violence or the threat of violence that targets civilians in the pursuit of political change. Terrorism is specifically designed to have far-reaching psychological effects beyond the immediate victims or object of the terrorist attack. For example, in the shockingly destructive attack on the World Trade Center, tangible damage was far greater than in previous terrorist attacks-reaching into thousands of lives and tens of billions of dollars. The psychological impact was even stronger than the physical damage-changing the U.S. political and cultural landscape instantly.

Since September 2001, governments and citizens have paid much more attention to terrorism than before. But terrorism itself is not new. Since the dawn of history, all acts of terrorism or terrorist campaigns are designed to promote publicity while creating fear, panic and the prospect to seize power. There is still definitional challenge to arrive at complete and objective definition of terrorism. To define terrorism, the following three important elements can be applied:

1. The aim of the action, which is always political—that is, to gain or to maintain political objectives, changing a regime, changing the people in power, or changing social or economic policies;
2. The essence of the action—that is, the use of or threat to use violence to influence a broader audience as opposed to nonviolent protest such as strikes, peaceful demonstrations, or tax revolts; and
3. The target of the action—that is, civilians. Terrorism is distinguished from other types of political violence such as guerrilla warfare and civil insurrection by the intentional targeting of civilians.

### Goals of terrorism

The main tactical (short-run) goals of terrorism are (1) gaining publicity and media attention, (2) destabilizing polity and (3) damaging economies. Among the long-run goals of terrorism is a redistribution of power, influence and wealth. Terrorist organizations must have goals that are not enforceable in the ordinary political process and for whose implementation their members are willing to use force. Tactical terrorist behavior (e.g., assassinations, hostage-takings) then serves to achieve these strategic goals, making violence a means to meet more abstract objectives.

Individually, terrorists must exhibit certain character traits that enable them to carry out terrorist actions. Organizationally, the dominance of group leaders, group dynamics and other (psychological) factors also influence terrorist behavior. Therefore, popular opinion often links terrorism to irrationality or insanity. However, an economic view of terrorism instead assumes that terrorists are rational, so the average terrorist behaves more or less as a *homo economics*. As rational actors terrorists act violently to maximize their utility, given certain benefits, costs and constraints that are linked to these actions.

## **Threats and Challenges of terrorism**

It can be found that there are seven samples cases to which we must ask, “Was this act of terrorism or some other form of violent activity? These seven cases are:

Case one is from 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany slaughtered six million Jews throughout Europe and Eurasia; Case two was that in late December 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army raped and murdered over 260,000 Chinese in a senseless orgy of violence; Case three can be found that on 6 August, 1945, a lone US Army Air Corps B-29 attacked Hiroshima with an atomic bomb; approximately forty-five thousand Japanese died in a flash and many tens of thousands died later; Case four was happened on 12 October 2000, a small rubber boat with two waving occupants motored alongside the USS Cole (DDG 67), an American warship harbored in the Yemeni port of Aden, and exploded, blowing a hole in its side, killing seventeen sailors and injuring thirty-nine; Case five was that On 19 September 2006, Robert Redeker, a public high school philosophy teacher and writer near Toulouse, called the Koran “a book of incredible violence,” comparing Islam unfavorably with Christianity and Judaism. Redeker, his wife, and children immediately received death threats by telephone, email, and on the Internet forum; Case six was happened that On 5 April 2007, Second Lieutenant Joanna Dyer and three other British soldiers perished from a roadside bomb while on patrol in Basra, Iraq. Former Prime Minister Blair labeled the ambush an “act of terrorism,” suggesting its perpetrators were linked to it; and Case seven can be found that on 27 October 2008, Islamist rebels stoned to death thirteen-year-old Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow for being raped.

## **Historical Roots of Terrorism**

To examine terrorism’s nature, an effective way is to see it as part of an unfolding historical process. Terrorism is a form of political warfare and, like war itself, retains its constant nature, but its causes, objectives, and motivations evolve. Its enduring nature can be illuminated by the brief treatment of terrorism’s history. The first known terrorist group was a Jewish group called the Sicarii, an extremist offshoot of the religious sect of Zealots who attempted to expel the Romans and their Jewish collaborators from the Judean region and introduced terrorism as a strategy from approximately AD 66 to 73. Their unorthodox tactics: killing during daylight in crowded places to demonstrate the Roman Empire and Jewish kingdom’s impotence; attacking in order to strike fear beyond their immediate targets; and acting in an apparent random nature.

Secondly, the Assassins, an offshoot of the Ismaili sect, terrorized the Middle East during the eleventh–thirteenth centuries. The Assassins killed apostates: Muslim prefects, governors, caliphs, and even Conrad, the Crusader King of Jerusalem. The Assassins preferred the dagger. They courted death purportedly motivated by hashish-induced visions of paradise and were encouraged to believe nothing and dare all. The Assassins were initially suppressed by the Mongols and later destroyed in 1272 by the Muslim leader al-Malik Baybars al-Bunduqdari, an important Mamluk Sultan of Egypt and Syria.

The third terrorist group is the Thuggee, a Hindu religious cult, devotees of Kali, a Hindu goddess of a specialized form of organized crime or paramilitary activity like a modern mafia lacking any particular religious dimension. This criminal terrorist group had killed as many as two million people and their centuries-long campaign ended under British rule in the 1830s. It strangled their victims with silk garrotes; murdered travelers who were rarely English; and attacked large areas in an indiscriminate manner. The Thuggee usually made no confessions when captured. Another obstacle to prosecution was that Thuggee groups did not act locally, but attacked all over the Indian subcontinent, including territories not under British rule.

The last historic terrorist group is the Narodnaya Volya. They functioned from January 1878 until March 1881 and arguably represent terrorism's most successful organization. Their motto proclaimed, "Not one drop of unnecessary blood!" This was the classic era of anarchist terrorism that lasted from about 1880 to the end of World War I. Some scholars suggest a comparison is warranted between present-day terrorism and its nineteenth-century predecessor. In 1906 alone, approximately thirty-six hundred government officials were killed or wounded by terrorists. Acts of terrorism became so common during this period that many Russian newspapers introduced special sections devoted solely to printing daily lists of political assassinations and bombings throughout the empire.

### **Root Causes of Terrorism**

Root causes are not the proximate cause of terrorism. Rather, they are factors that establish an environment in which terrorism may arise. A basic distinction exists between root cause factors that are preconditions and those that are precipitant. The former set the stage and the latter ignite the action. These preconditions and precipitants describe: dreadful histories accompanied by humiliation; foreign repression; the love for a lost land or era; the lack of democracy, civil liberties, and rule of law; the lack of power sharing, ethnic or religious discrimination; illegitimate governance; a government's intolerance of minorities; extremist ideologies or zealotry; becoming a failed state; rapid modernization; or charismatic leaders, individuals who can whip a mob into frenzy by the power of their oratory or deeds and then set the mob loose to destroy.

### **Economic deprivation**

Terrorism is the inevitable by-product of poverty. Terrorism is rooted in economic deprivation, i.e., in poverty and within-country inequality. According to Gurr, violence is generated when there is a discrepancy between what individuals think they deserve and what they actually receive through the economic (distributive) process. Poor structural economic conditions create frustration, which in turn makes violence more likely. This link from economic deprivation to terrorism should matter to the source countries of terrorism. For instance, terrorist organizations should find it easier (less costly) to recruit frustrated followers or to receive funding from supporters when economic deprivation prevails. With respect to the target countries of terrorism, economic success may attract attacks when economic deprivation is assessed globally (poor vs. rich countries).

### **Rapid modernization**

The process of modernization fostered terrorism. Modernization encompasses, inter alia, economic change (e.g., economic growth), new forms of communication and lifestyles (e.g., shift from agricultural to urban societies) and new ideas (e.g. Western ideology). These factors may create grievances associated with socio-economic and demographic strain. For instance, economic growth may be associated with a restructuring of labor markets, creating grievances among 'modernization losers' who become unemployed due to economic change.

In this regard, terrorists are able to capitalize on the grievances of 'modernization losers' linked to economic dissatisfaction, new forms of alienated living or other challenges to traditional societal patterns, thus making recruitment, financing or other forms of support more likely. This mechanism is particularly relevant to the source countries of terrorism.

### **Political and institutional order**

The political and institutional order is also argued to matter to terrorism. Democratic regimes can offer non-violent means of voicing dissent but are unable to realize 'hard' counter-terrorism measures due to an obligation to civil liberties. This may make terrorism production (country of origin perspective) less likely but may increase the probability of terrorist attacks (target country perspective). Autocratic regimes can capitalize on their capability of repression which may at the same time generate grievances linked to political disenfranchisement. A low level of political openness may make the genesis of terrorism more likely but lessens the likelihood of terrorist attacks. Semi-open societies (partial democracies) are most prone to terrorism because they cannot capitalize on the advantages of either 'pure' regime.

### **Political transformation and instability**

Political transformation and instability are also named as causes of terrorism, in particular in popular discourse. The main idea is that political change may create political vacuums which terrorist groups use to push their agendas. Such vacuums are attractive as radical groups are less likely to be challenged by an instable, thus weak government (e.g., measured by a regime stability variable), making terrorism a less costly venture. Also, an individual may find it more attractive to join or support a radical organization because there are few non-violent alternatives (meaning low opportunity costs of violence) but high payoffs from terrorist success (meaning increased benefits of violence). Instable or failed states may even serve as schools of international terrorism, where in phases of domestic instability (e.g., civil war) individuals gain an 'education' in violence that they can also use for internationalized terrorist campaigns.

### **Identity and cultural clash**

Civilizational clash may also result in violence. When groups exhibit different identities (e.g., different religions or ethnicities), this may lead to more conflict either between different groups within a country or between different country groups organized along civilizational lines (e.g., Islamic countries versus the West). For terrorist groups, it should be easier (less costly) to muster support against antagonistic identity groups (identified, e.g., by ethnic or religious fractionalization measures). This holds even more when terrorists build on identity-related ideologies that stress the supremacy of their respective identity (e.g., representing the 'only true faith'). Such a world view eliminates moral constraints and strengthens an organization's cohesion, making terrorism less costly and more effective. Terrorism is used by the inferior group not only as a means to voice their world view but also to shift (material) outcomes in their favor. Identity (and opposition to other identities) works as a bond facilitating, e.g., terrorist recruitment and financial support. When terrorists succeed, related payoffs are particularly high due to the enforcement of a claim to the absolute.

### **Global economic and political order**

The global political and economic order (globalization) also matters to terrorism, where terrorism driven by global factors is more likely to be of an international nature. Economic integration (e.g., measured by trade openness), foreign policy (e.g., indicated by political proximity to the West) and alliance structures (e.g., indicated by membership in alliances) may play a role when developing grievances and resistance against globalization.

Traditionalist or disenfranchised segments of a society may use violence to counter foreign dominance (i.e., Western supremacy) and global modernization. If individuals are incited by an existing global order that is perceived as 'unfair', it should be easier for terrorist organizations to find support by building on related grievances in the source countries of terrorism. However, the targets of terrorism may also be chosen in response to the existing global order, especially if this order is perceived as 'unjust' from the perpetrators' perspective.

### **Contagion**

Contagion may be another factor explaining terrorism. The main idea is that terrorism exhibits a strong self-energizing nature with respect to both time and space. Temporal contagion means that past terrorism bears new terrorism within one country. For a terrorist organization it is more beneficial to run a terrorist campaign because this increases the benefits from terrorist activity (e.g., through increased media attention). Spatial contagion means that if one country suffers from terrorism, it is also likely to infect neighboring countries (e.g., indicated by the distance to terrorism). Terrorist activity in one country may lead to imitational behavior in neighboring countries. Emerging terrorist groups may capitalize on the experience of existing groups in adjacent countries. Additionally, when terrorist organizations cooperate they may reduce their costs (e.g., by sharing know-how and weapons) and increase the payoff (e.g., by joint terrorist actions). Temporal and spatial proximity to terrorism may thus influence the cost-benefit considerations of terrorists in ways that may promote the generation of violence and the likelihood of a certain country being targeted.

### **Types of Terrorism**

Despite the definitional debate in the lines of categorization, eight terrorist typologies can be explained within the following contexts:

The New Terrorism is that the modern terrorist environment that arose during the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, culminating in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City. The New Terrorism is characterized by the threat of mass casualty attacks from dissident terrorist organizations, new and creative organizational configurations, transnational religious solidarity, and redefined moral justifications for political violence.

State Terrorism means terrorism committed by governments against perceived enemies. State terrorism can be directed externally against adversaries in the international domain or internally against domestic enemies. Being that extensive resources are readily available to the state, a great level of violence is quite plausible. Governments have used terrorism as an instrument of foreign policy, as well as directed terrorist violence domestically (Westra, 2012). When pursuing such policies, states select from a range of overt and covert alternatives in the domestic and international systems.

Dissident Terrorism represents terrorism committed by non-state movements and groups against governments, ethno-national groups, religious groups, and other perceived enemies. Dissidents often foment rebellion against governments and socio-political systems because perceived grievances have been ignored by or caused by these governments and systems. The decision to engage in terrorism is itself rationalized because tactical and weapons selection must be adapted by the weak when at war with the strong. These terrorists simply do not possess resources, manpower, organizational ability, or immediacy of repression as available to governments.

Religious terrorism has come to the fore as a predominant typology in the modern terrorist environment. Religious terrorism is regarded as terrorism motivated by an absolute belief that an otherworldly power has sanctioned—and commanded—the application of

terrorist violence for the greater glory of the faith. Religious terrorism is usually conducted in defense of what believers consider to be the one true faith.

Ideological terrorism means terrorism motivated by political systems of belief (ideologies), which champion the self-perceived inherent rights of a particular group or interest in opposition to another group or interest. The system of belief incorporates theoretical and philosophical justifications for violently asserting the rights of the championed group or interest.

International terrorism is terrorism that occurs far afield from the immediate theater of conflict. The conflict “spills over” into the international arena as a way to attract the attention of the international community to give heed to the grievances of parties to a domestic conflict. Targets are selected because of their value as symbols of international interests, either within the home country or across state boundaries.

Criminal Dissident Terrorism is solely profit-driven, and can be some combination of profit and politics. For instance, traditional organized criminals accrue profits to fund their criminal activity and for personal interests, while criminal-political enterprises acquire profits to sustain their movements. The modern era has witnessed cooperation between transnational organized crime groups and terrorist movements. This cooperation represents a serious problem for the international community. This has usually occurred within two environments: first, violence undertaken by profit-motivated traditional criminal enterprises; and second, violence undertaken by politically motivated criminal-political enterprises.

**Terrorist Groups**

According to Global Terrorism Index 2017, there were 586 terrorist groups that operated between 1970 and 2007. Of the 586 groups analyzed, 37 percent were nationalist groups, 37 percent were left-wing, 21 percent were religious groups and five percent were right-wing. Of the groups analyzed, 281 wanted either regime change or social revolution, 165 wanted territorial change, 118 wanted some specific policy change and 22 wanted to maintain the status quo.

The four deadliest terrorist groups between 2000 and 2016 are Al-Qa’ida, Boko Haram, the Taliban and ISIL.

Figure 1 shows that Deaths Attributed to The Four Deadly Terrorist Groups, 2000-2016. According to Figure 1, it can be found that in 2016 ISIL/ISIS has its deadliest year, killing over 11,500 people. Figure 2 explains Number of Deaths & Attacks by Region, 2016. According to Figure 2, Middle East and North Africa had the highest number of deaths and attacks in 2016, followed by South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

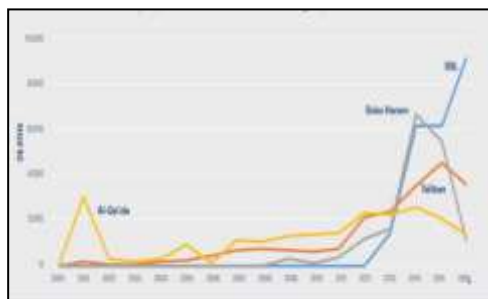


Figure1. Deaths Attributed to The Four Deadly Terrorist Groups, Terrorist Groups, 2000-2016  
Source: Global Terrorism Index,2017

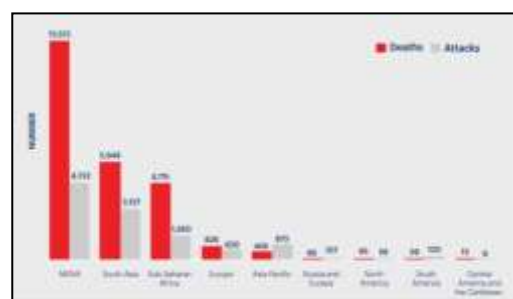


Figure 2. The Four Deadly Terrorist 2000-2016  
Source: Global Terrorism Index,2017

## Terrorist Targets and Attack Types

At the regional level there is considerable variation in both terrorist targets and attack types. In most regions private citizens and private property have been the main targets of terrorism. However, in Central America and the Caribbean, government and journalists have been the most frequently targeted. Figure 3 shows Percentage of Attacks by Target Type, 2016. According to Figure 3., civilians are targeted in most attacks in Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for 60 percent and 50 percent in 2016 respectively. Globally, bombings and explosions are the most common method of attack. Food and water supplies, maritime infrastructure and tourists have been the least targeted. Figure 4 show percentage of attacks by attack types in 2016. According to Figure 4, facility and infrastructure attacks in North America were the highest. In Middle East and North Africa, bombings and explosions account for the majority of attacks and very common in accounting for 71 per cent of the region's attacks. This reflects the region's long history of conflict and more sophisticated bomb-making expertise.

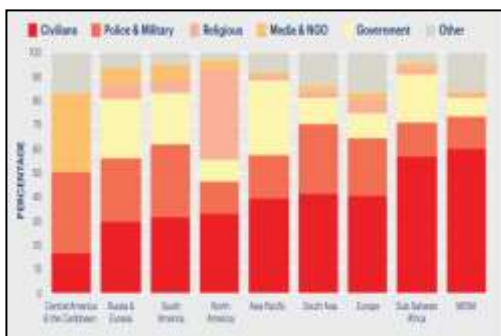


Figure 3. Percentage of Attacks by Target Type, 2016

Source: Global Terrorism Index, 2017

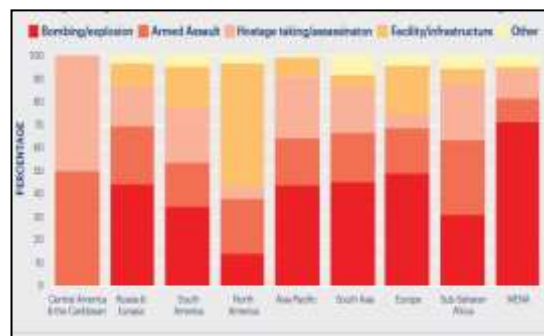


Figure 4. Percentage of Attacks by Attack Type, 2016

Source: Global Terrorism Index, 2017

## Impact of Terrorism

In 2015, Al-Qa'i, Boko Haram da was responsible for 465 attacks in 12 countries that killed a total of 2,070 people. However, in 2016, the organization carried out 539 attacks in 13 countries but this increased number of attacks resulted in fewer deaths with 1,349 people killed. Boko Haram was the deadliest terrorist group in 2014 and responsible for 454 attacks with 6,668 deaths in 2014. In 2016 Boko Haram committed 192 attacks that resulted in 1,079 deaths. Battle-deaths responsible by the Taliban in 2015 and 2016 were around 18,000 per year, but there was a 23 per cent reduction in terrorist attacks in 2016. ISIL undertook more deadly attacks in 2016. The number of attacks rose by 18.5 per cent, from 955 in 2015 to 1,132 attacks in 2016. Its death toll rose even more and increased by nearly 50 per cent to 9,132 people.

## Economic Impact of Terrorism

The global economic impact of terrorism has exhibited three peaks corresponding to three major waves of terrorism since 2001. The first was the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington D.C. which resulted in losses from deaths, injuries and property destruction amounting to US\$65 billion in 2016 constant dollars. This excludes the indirect costs to the U.S economy in general which have not been included in the IEP model but which has been estimated at between 0.7 and one per cent of U.S. GDP, or up US\$190 billion.



The second peak occurred in 2007 and was driven by increases in terrorism in Iraq. This increase is attributed to the activities of al-Qa'ida affiliated terrorist groups and coincided with a coalition troop surge in the country. Since 2013, the increased levels of violence from mainly ISIL in Syria and Iraq have led to a third surge in the economic impact of terrorism and which has continued for the last four years. The economic impact of terrorism reached US\$84 billion in

2016. The pattern over the last four years follows the rise and decline of ISIL and the spread of terrorism to highly peaceful countries, including those within the OECD.

Countries suffering from conflict experience were the most costly economic impacts from terrorism. These countries are mainly situated in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In 2016, Iraq once again has the largest economic impact of terrorism as a percentage of GDP, at 24 per cent. Afghanistan is the only other country where the economic impact of terrorism is higher than ten per cent of its GDP. Table 6.1 shows the ten countries with the highest economic impacts of terrorism. These costings do not include the costs associated with intelligence agencies which would have increased considerably in many countries.

### **Terrorist Attacks on Myanmar**

Myanmar people are generally aware of traditional security and state-centric security but have limited understanding of non-traditional security issues such as violent extremism and terrorism. Recent terrorist attacks are new to Myanmar. The 2106-1017 conflict broke out when the armed Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorist group started synchronized attacks against the police guard headquarters and police outposts in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Since 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, military columns and Myanmar Police Force carried out military operations. There were 95 fights, the seizuers of 371 dead bodies, 153 terrorists and 13. ARSA has already committed that it launched all the terrorist attacks.

### **Conclusion**

Terrorism remains a crucial global threat. Terrorist threat at regional level is also increasing because of links between local extremist and terrorist groups. Terrorism exists constantly in motion; innovation in communication technologies, global interconnectedness, and the mechanisms of weaponry and violence. The human and financial cost of terrorism is growing rapidly. It can be also found that state terrorism, among other types of terrorism, has in-depth exploration while terrorism is commonly associated with violent fanatics and raging individuals. This type of terrorism is potentially the most destructive manifestation of terrorist violence, as those who hold positions of great power and are often trusted by citizens carry it out. Despite the variations in danger and threat, all terrorism typologies are spectacles of fear and destruction; therefore, they must be monitored and categorized for continued sophistication of counter strategies. Therefore, intelligence personnel need for protecting societies, providing "early warning", or valuable assessments of motive, damage, further impending attacks, etc. Governments need to strive to anticipate and preempt attackers, not merely identify and arrest terrorists after their attacks. Public also need to better understand motivations of terrorists and actively participate in government' counter-terrorism activities.

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