

# HOW TERRORISM HAS CHANGED IN THE CONTEMPORARY CONDITIONS

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***Abstract:** Contemporary terrorism has been in constant expansion primarily in respect of its quality. Due to the constants which generate it, it renews itself in cycles, each time with additional elements of surprise. With the continued use of new, more sophisticated and effective methods and forms of actions, contemporary terrorism (international, but also nationalist, local forms of terrorism) can have different short- and long-term effects, especially when this kind of criminal acts is combined with subversive propaganda. On the basis of the above, it is clear that, in the contemporary conditions, terrorism is not only the most brutal form of violence, as usually thought and named, but also frequently the planned, overall and continued conflict most often between destructive subjects and the current authorities of a State (but also between States).*

***Keywords:** Political violence, "liberal" terrorism, "postmodern" terrorism, organized crime, antiterrorist combat.*

## INTRODUCTION

The analysis of accessible and operative definitions shows that terrorism is mainly considered as being a special form of the use of force (violent attack) characterized by political motives, criminal means and collective realization, as well as the orientation of a real action to spreading fear and restlessness in a broader segment of population (so-called effect of resonance).

Method used by terrorists can be different: ambushes, armed attacks on the military and the police, infiltration of armed groups to the territory of foreign countries with intention of assassination attempt, diversion etc., plane, train, ship and bus hijacking, kidnapping and hostage taking for the purpose of ransom or extortion of political and other concessions, arson, bomb attacks including "letter-bombs", "car-bombs" and terrorist suicide ("human-bombs"), attacks with chemical-biological weapons ("bio-terrorism") etc. Because of such methods, which rank terrorism among other violent acts of crime, the international law condemns all types of terrorism and prohibits it as a method of political fight.

Contemporary terrorism has been in constant expansion primarily in respect of its quality. Due to the constants which generate it, it renews itself in cycles, each time with additional elements of surprise. With the continued use of new, more sophisticated and effective methods and forms of actions, contemporary terrorism (international, but also nationalist,

local forms of terrorism) can have different short- and long-term effects, especially when this kind of criminal acts is combined with subversive propaganda.

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## **TRANSFORMATIONS OF TERRORISM AT THE END OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> AND IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Although it is generally known that terrorism as a social phenomenon appeared long ago, two contemporary forms are of particular importance - "liberal", "non-nationalized" (non-State) terrorism characteristic for the 1970s and 1980s and the current "postmodern" terrorism .

The period of "liberal" terrorism lasted from mid-1960s to 1990. In this period, the majority of terrorist organizations "operated" Japan and in the Middle and Near East and especially in Western Europe. "Liberal terrorism" was also influenced by the terrorism of some Palestinian liberation organizations and groups, especially after the Israeli victory in the 1967 war, and by the beginning of birth of Islamic extremism. It is characteristic for this period that terrorist groups independently selected targets of their attacks and collected information about them. The element of self-sacrifice was evident in terrorist actions which limited with fanaticism (this element became one of the basic characteristics of terrorists from the Middle East, especially after the suddenly increased influence of Iranian Islamic fundamentalists in the 1980s).

It is considered that autochthonous terrorism as the result of more or less sincere "revolutionary enthusiasm" disappeared up to 1983. Since then although not everywhere at the same time, or to the same extent and quality, the presence of the state as both subject and object of international terrorism has become dominant either on conspiratorial or non-conspiratorial aspect.

Shaping of a new type of terrorism is in a great measure contributed to by dramatic orientation to terrorism of some Arabian organizations and groups, as well as the expansion of Islamic Fundamentalism in some countries of Africa and Asia traditionally sensitive to the Islamic religious extremism (Iran, Lebanon, Algeria and others). Similar situation is in the countries of East Europe with predominated Muslim population (Muslim-Croatian Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian province Kosovo - Metohija and Southeastern Serbia, West Macedonia, Russian province Chechnya).

During several recent years, new terrorist organizations and groups have been made while the existing has been consolidation the basis of ethnic and religious affiliation. In early 1990s, terrorist organizations with different programs and ideologies established links among themselves since they had a common interest in surviving. Within such an "international cooperation", terrorist organizations frequently established contacts with terrorist groups created with the help and support of specialized intelligence institutions of some countries. Currently, groups of terrorists which CIA formed and trained for the actions against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan and other regions are the most dangerous in the world, the groups which were influenced by the hatred towards the "red enemy" in order to

parry terrorism created and sponsored by the opponent. This was a "cold war investment" which brought profit, but which, now, asks for the payment.<sup>1</sup>

It has become evident that there is an ever smaller number of traditional terrorist organizations and networks with a firm organization and guided from one centre, and a growing number of "domestic", ethnically and religiously inspired terrorists who appear to have publicity as their priority. Recently, the boundary between terrorism and organized crime has been lost, above all the illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs ("narcoterrorism"). In this context, notable are specific "symbioses" between terrorist organizations and mafia clans which operate in Peru, Colombia, Laos, Afghanistan and Lebanon.

The same situation is in Kosovo - Metohija as well as in the territory of Southern Serbia.<sup>2</sup> Namely, the U.S. State Department listed KLA as terrorist organization, indicating that it was financing its operations with money from international heroin trade and loans from Islamic countries and individuals, among them allegedly Osama bin Laden. Organized crime and terrorism in Western Balkans countries, especially in the territory of Kosovo - Metohija and Southern Serbia, now creates a rather strong network of criminal activities. Terrorism funded drug trade and money laundering.<sup>3</sup>

Terrorism is ever more frequently used to cover up weaknesses and inability to impose one's own position or policy to a society. A typical example for this is terrorist acts of Albanian separatists in Kosovo - Metohija, since, depending on the current international political situation. Terrorists from this region more or less enjoy the support of some international factors - including Islamic countries, nongovernmental organizations and radical groups. Such support to the existing terrorist organizations is manifested mainly in financing, arms deliveries, training, providing shelter, providing travel documents, logistic support and others, while, at the same time, direct terrorist support can be noted through the organization of terrorist groups which are infiltrated from their or third countries to the territory of the targeted country or are formed within the country whose security interests are to be endangered.

Such unprincipled position of certain States and, under their pressure, of a broad international community is conducive to the strengthening of the practice of the so-called double standard: one terrorism is condemned while the other is supported. Or, some countries are supported while others are punished for the same categories of terrorism.

## **SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM AT THE END OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> AND IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 21<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Encountering the escalation of not only internal but also international terrorism in the seventies and the eighties, many countries begin with planning and application of a special strategy to fight terrorism more efficiently. In the first place, this strategy includes combining adequate police and legislative means on the national and international level.

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<sup>1</sup> Yonah A. (1989), The Terrorist Network, *Defence and Diplomacy*, No. 9, pp 36-41, Chossudovsky M. (2001), "Osama-gate", in: <http://globalresearch.ca> October 8, 2001

<sup>2</sup> For further information see: Makarenko T. (2003), A model of terrorist - criminal relations, *Jane's intelligence review*, August 2003 pp. 6-11 ; Wardlaw, G. (1988) Linkages Between the Illegal Drugs Traffic and Terrorism. *Conflict Quarterly*, No 3. p. 5-26.

<sup>3</sup> Pušara K.; Pušara A. (2011), Prevention of money laundering – the problem of contemporary banking, *International journal of economics and law*, No. 1, pp. 97-104; Milošević M. (2010), Legislative aspects of money laundering prevention, in : *International Conference Application of New Technologies in Management* (vol. 2), Tara : Faculty for Education of the Executives, pp. 650-654.

Some countries, which were most endangered by terrorism at the time, introduced special statutory prescriptions incriminating terrorist activities on the whole by which prosecution bodies were given special permit and authority regarding the procedures. Thus, in Federal Republic of Germany, Antiterrorist Law (Antiterrorgesetz) was introduced in 1976, amended in 1977, and similar prescriptions exist in France, Great Britain, Italy, Republic of South Africa, Australia, etc.

Considering legislative forms of fight against terrorism on international level, a significant breakthrough in this field was made in the late sixties, and especially in the middle of the eighties. Namely, it was evident that, some universal and regional prescriptions were necessary for the purpose of more efficient fight against terrorism because it became a first rate international problem. For that reason the United Nations adopted many Resolutions (32/147, 34/145, 36/109, 38/130 etc.) and Conventions (concerning prevention of illegal acts endangering security of civil Air Force, 1971; prevention and punishment for criminal offences against persons enjoying international protection, 1973; defence of hostage taking, 1979), and some important multilateral agreements on fighting terrorism were made, e.g. American and European Convention of combating terrorism, 1977.

So far, probably the most important progress in legislative fight against terrorism on global level is the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution about terrorism in the late 1985 (40/61). Adopting a new resolution (48/122) late in 1993, General Assembly of UN, decisively condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practice regardless of form and manifestation at any place and committed by any person, as well as actions directed to endangering human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threats to the territorial integrity and security of countries, destabilisation of legitimately elected governments and endangering of plural civil society; expressing at the same time a deep regret because of the increasing number of innocent people, including also women, children and old people killed, massacred and mutilated by terrorists.

Considering the police and intelligence aspects of fight against terrorism, the international co-operation is becoming more and more imperative, primarily within the countries of the European Community (TREVI group, Europol), but also within a special NATO Committee for Fighting Terrorism. The international organization of criminal police Interpol was also involved to the utmost in fighting terrorism.

Namely, only between 1967 and 1983 17 resolutions were adopted concerning criminal offences as a means of terrorism. Among these resolutions a significant importance is given to resolutions and other documents by which INTERPOL is introduced in the fight against offences concerning endangering civil aircraft flights<sup>4</sup>. In relation to the documents adopted later on, particularly important are those which explicitly define terrorism as "a violent crime generally known as terrorism" from 1984 and "Guide for fight against international terrorism" from 1986. Within Interpol there is special branch for the fights against the Terrorism (TE), and also similar branch was created in the system of UN. Namely, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) opened third Branch office (Terrorism Prevention Branch).

In spite of this, at the end of the 20th century, terrorism continues to exist, although transformed to a large extent. Terrorism (domestic and transactional) has become more "mature", and the objectives of direct attack by use of violence are in such a measure enlarged and relative that virtually anything can be the object of a terrorist act<sup>5</sup>. In recent

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<sup>4</sup>For further information see: Rodionov, K., S. (1982), *Interpol: mif i dejstvitelnost*, Moscow, Medzunarodnie otnosenija, p. 137-142.

<sup>5</sup>Hoffman, T. (1997), New Targets for the 90s terrorist, *International Security Review*, No. 99, (July-August), p. 13-15.

years, it has been sufficient enough for the terrorists to perform an act of terrorism near the spot an important event takes place to make an appropriate media and propaganda effect. That contributes largely to devaluation of not only preventive security and defensive measures (antiterrorism), but also offensive measures of prevention and fighting terrorist activities (counter terrorism).

Namely, when the cited police and security measures become efficient enough, terrorists find less effective, but more available objectives. For example, during the Olympic Games in Munich in 1970, the attack occurred in the Olympic village, and in Atlanta in 1996, the terrorist incident occurred in the near by park (Centennial Olympic Park). Also, terrorists kidnapped and killed mostly foreign diplomats, statesmen and military commanding officers before, in Algeria, for example, but in recent years Islam fundamentalists (Al Qaida, Armed Islam Group – GIA etc.) have been killing foreign workers, tourists and others, just because they are foreigners.

In the beginning of the 21th century, after horrible terrorist attack from September 11 when more than 3000 civilians lost their life's it become clear that terrorism in fact threaten whole international community as global danger. Parallel to this, the character of terrorist activities changed. The rule know as "Jenkins rule" after the famous expert for questions of terrorism that "the terrorist wants a lot of observers and a few of victims", lost its application since the number of terrorist actions decreases, while the number of victims significantly raises, which is not only confirmed by the victims of September 11 in USA, but also by terrorist action in Riyadh and Istanbul in November 2003.<sup>6</sup>

In mid 1980s around 600 attacks were registered annually; at the beginning of 1990 the number decreased to around 450, while at the end of 1990 to around 400. At the same time, the number of victims per one attacks increases. During 1996, the number of terrorist attacks in the world was reduced to the lowest level in the last 25 years, but at the same time the number of victims of terrorism increased to more than 3.000 killed and injured. Victims of terrorism are increasingly members of the police.<sup>7</sup>

In response to that global threat, leading West countries together with countries in process of transition were force to impose more strict measures both internally as well as in the international level. For example just in the State of New York, after September 11, it was imposed a new legal regulation regarding act of terrorism with (death penalty) punishment for most series offence. Within the very same scope of legal regulation it is incriminated as criminal offence terrorist threat including "telephone terrorism".

As one of the consequence of September 11, all State administration of United States, where reconstructed and part of it was some changing within intelligence community. It was created "super service" - Office of Homeland Security. This office coordinate activities of number of others intelligence agencies. Also, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), lost some jurisdiction over the some crimes in order to focus and concentrate its work on the fight against Terrorism. On the other side of the Globe, China started with the new secret service for airport security with 2000 agents – officers in the rank of Sky Marshals. Very strict measures were also imposed in the UK, with a new Law regarding Terrorism.

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<sup>6</sup>Babović B. (2004), Terrorism and organized crime in Western Balkans countries, *Science Security Police*, No. 1, pp. 9-25.

<sup>7</sup>Milošević M.; Marić V. (2011), Some aspects of the law enforcement officers legislative protection, *International journal of economics and law*, No. 1, pp. 84-89

## CONCLUSION

A conclusion can be drawn from the above that terrorism is the evil of the contemporary age, which exists in many countries, that it is manifested in various forms and that, in any case, it is anti-social and anti-humanistic violence against citizens and States inspired by political goals.

Contemporary terrorism has been in constant expansion primarily in respect of its quality. However, violence with the attributes of ideology, ethnics and religious terrorism has been drastically enlarged and internationalized, so that we may justly talk about of escalation of political terrorism in the beginning of the XXI century. In existing situation, significant activities appear directed to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, not only national but also bilateral, regional and global level.

Terrorism evolved in many aspects. After horrible terrorist attack from September 11 when more than 3000 civilians lost their life's it become clear that terrorism in fact threaten whole international community as global danger. The result of these efforts is numerous and strong measures in the field of prevention and repression of terrorism in diplomatic, political, police-intelligence and legislative domain. In spite of that, the effects of terrorism are not being decreased but the number of victims of this aspect of political violence is getting larger over the last few years.

This paradox points to the need for grasping the essence of anti terrorist combat in order to be able to analyze possible problems from many angles and make critical evaluations.

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