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TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM – AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to present the causes of terrorism, the offensive against terrorism and the methods of counteracting this worldwide spread phenomenon which has become an unconventional battle strategy used to achieve political goals. It is essential for different structures and organizations to combat terrorism, in order to reduce the psychological effect of panic and intimidation it generates. The war against the current order of the world is based on acts of violence and threatening which represent the terrorists' way to implement their ideas in the world. In the terrorism counteracting process, military and non-military structures use different strategies to combat this threat and its consequences.

Keywords: terrorism counter-terrorism, anti-terrorist/anti-terrorism structures, offensive actions

1. Introduction

Terrorism is, in the broad sense, a violent, intentional act committed by destructive conspiratorial organizations or by individuals against dignitaries, political, economic, scientific, military, cultural, diplomatic objectives (institutions) as a mean to create terror, fear, for the purpose of revenge and raising public awareness of a particular cause and to achieve political stability and satisfaction of claims.

Today Terrorism has become a particularly dangerous aggressive system that threatens man as an individual, human communities in all their diversity, and even state entities with their political values. Terrorism use violence or threatening to violence to introduce feelings of intense fear and intimidation, the attraction of public opinion to constrain or intimidate governments or societies (state entities) with their political, economic and military values, the endanger of their freedom, well-being, or even existence to achieve political, religious or ideological goals. Terrorist actions are carried out by external or internal forces, supported by organizations and states that are dominated by ideologies or exclusive beliefs, denying the fundamental freedoms of man and propagating violence and crime as methods of imposing in the world their own ideas and convictions. The purpose of the terrorist action is usually to generate large-scale comments in the media, to damage or to destroy a valuable edifice for the adversary, to assassinate a key political or military character, to contribute to the reputation and credibility of the group. [1]

The correct understanding of the causes of terrorism is essential for adopting strategies to combat this phenomenon and to reduce the number of victims and the negative social, political or economic effects. There are lots of diverse specific reasons of terrorism, but the most common are: *getting money and advantages* (getting unconventional weapons - chemical, biological, nuclear - by a non-state or unstable group interested in selling them), *desire to spread a message* (the act of violence is committed only to draw attention on a state of fact, to convey a message or to bring some ideas into the public debate, *judicial terrorism* (it is called like this because its targets and pretexts are the revenge and punishment of actions considered unjust by terrorists - judicial terrorism is quite rare, and is usually responsible for political assassinations), *religious fanaticism* (it can be a supporting base for groups or terrorist organizations, though they often manipulate this fanaticism for their own interests), *the struggle for liberation, emancipation and political power* (it is said that while insurgency is the strategy of the poor, terrorism is the desperate poor's strategy - many



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terrorist groups are motivated by legitimate ideals that cannot be achieved by political, military or economic means).[2]

2. Terrorist War

Because of its strong political determination, terrorism is considered to be a *war*, an *asymmetric war*. The Clausewitzian definition which refers to the war as being the continuation of politics by other means remains valid. Therefore, the terrorism can be defined very well, as war is sometimes defined, the end of politics.

This type of terrorist war has been unknown until now. It is characterized by: the lack of a particular location where terrorist actions should take place (so that terrorists expand their activity on the whole planet and even in the cosmos), the great diversity of actions, the use of man as a weapon and as a mean of struggle, the lack of unitary strategic coordination, the surprise, the maintaining of strategic initiative through stunning, fast-moving actions, anywhere, anytime.

From the states mentioned above, we can define *two important characteristics* of terrorist war. On the one hand, the terrorist war *has no territory* (the territory was fundamental in the conflicts of the past, because each protagonist identified himself by the territory where the military forces were located – it was predominant the conquest of territories or the defense of territories) and, on the other hand, it is *asymmetric*. The asymmetry is observed in the means terrorists use: civil aircrafts directed against civil towers, against aircraft carriers or missiles which, despite their number and technological level, are little adapted to asymmetric conflict, and it is also observed in special forces, intelligence, territorial police and financial embargoes.

The terrorist war requires a reasonable response, but no one is prepared for fighting against terrorism, because no one has ever thought that it could become a war, and yet a planetary war, because it represented for a long period of time only an extreme form of protest or obedience. A true strategic and military reflection must be committed to determine what means and strategies are needed for our democracies to efficiently counteract this threat. The fight against international terrorism is not only an issue of internal security affecting certain countries but it is a real strategic challenge launched against our democracies and our values.

It is clear that the issue of combating terrorism requires different solutions than before. Counteracting the terrorism implies a different concept, a different reaction, a different strategy. Terrorism has become a very serious threat and its consequences can degenerate into monstrosities. [3]

3. Anti-Terrorism Structures

a. Non-military structures

Terrorism has been considered until now a police and special forces job. Special forces have not been created to combat terrorism, but for special military actions, especially for research, intelligence, diversion and action against enemies. Practically, besides intelligence structures and internal order and public order structures, there are not currently viable structures to combat international terrorism. However, terrorism is considered to be an asymmetric threat to the whole world, so the world will have to set up its structures to protect it and combat this threat. These structures are required to be set up at both international and national levels and to consist of: *clear and rapid legislation in the field* which is supposed to finally bring terrorism out to the law and to establish a world reaction against it; *integrated structures* in the purpose of discovering terrorist



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organizations and fighting against them; *structures of civil society*, for the eradication of terrorism from the societies through cultural means and civic education.

b. Military structures – Special Forces

Special forces were not created for anti-terrorist actions. They are neither equipped nor prepared for such missions. However, missions of this type do not require training at the exceptional level at which these forces are trained. Special forces are structures of war intended to perform extremely difficult missions in the depth of the enemy device, to gather information, to direct the means of striking, to realize the strategic manipulation of forces and means, to accomplish their missions.

Antiterrorist warfare requires in the first place a rigorous system of detection, surveillance and rapid annihilation of networks, organizations, training and logistics bases, schools and terrorist infrastructures and terrorist actions. For this, an integrated planet-wide surveillance system is needed, with networks and structures in every country in every corner of the world. In the terrorism counteract process, special military forces (or some of them) may be hitting, annihilation, surveillance, and diversion elements.

c. Regular military structures

Common military structures are not intended to fight against terrorism. But under the circumstances, they can also be trained for such missions. In this case, a counter-terrorism warfare training program should include: topics of detailed knowledge of the terrorist phenomenon and modalities of action; training of forces to carry out surveillance and destruction of terrorist elements and networks; engagement of troops in localities, forests, crowded or deserted areas both on national and multinational territories; topics including evacuation and first aid methods in the case of terrorist attacks; other topics related to the preparation of military for fighting against terrorist attacks, for protection of the population and their values and respectively for offensive actions against terrorist organizations, training bases and other structures.[3]

4. Combating / Countering Terrorism

a. Policies to combat terrorism

Combating terrorism is not a military issue, but rather a political one. Policies to combat this phenomenon must be based on knowledge, their aim being to eradicate the causes that generate this violent phenomenon. The policies to counteract terrorism should include: investigative policies; evaluation policies; policies to counteract its effects; policies to eradicate the causes; prevention policies; policies for funding the structures and the actions against terrorism; policies to train forces, means, and population in order to be prepared for anti-terrorist war. The political decision to fight terrorism belongs to civilization and has the aim to protect by law communities, properties, institutions, systems against terrorist acts through a coherent system of constraints and actions of the citizen.

b. Offensive actions against terrorism

A. Terrorism surveillance and monitoring systems

Terrorism surveillance and monitoring systems involve structures and infrastructures distributed to cover the whole planet or, at a first stage in anti-terrorist warfare, areas that reach the greater importance. These systems need to be integrated, but also flexible enough to cope with the tactical and aleatory flexibility of terrorism, and to provide the databases and intelligence needed to properly organize the action and response. They must also have national and international components to act through cooperation in all environments and in all spaces.



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Each of these structures must include: high sensitivity electronic surveillance components; direct research components; fast and secure communications components; data and information analysis components; fast decision-making components; validation components and timely correction of these decisions. The most important factor in the surveillance of terrorist structures, infrastructures and actions is the man, the intelligence agent, equipped with all the necessary means and helped by a permanent and effective technical-information system.

B. Structures and offensive actions against terrorism

a. Non-military

The most effective ways to combat terrorism are not military, but political and cultural. Being a political phenomenon, an expression of social dysfunctionality, terrorism acts in this space, striking everything that means order, organization, authority and democratic values.

It has already been proven that terrorism can be considered an asymmetric war. All international structures, starting with the UN and continuing with the regional ones and all states, must be involved in the fight against terrorism primarily through the means of civil society - legislation, economic and financial means, policies, preventative systems, education, culture - and, if necessary, by using force.

b. Military

Terrorism is a war against the current order of the world. The most dangerous effect of terrorism is fear, that is, the insecurity of the person, of the management and communication systems, of the social organisms, destruction and murder being only the ways terrorist act through. In this case, the war required to be carried out against terrorism must include: identification strategies, protection strategies, counteracting strategies, offensive strategies and dissuasive strategies.

A possible configuration of the military may be: Specific management structures (within the usual ones); Information, surveillance and warning forces (structures); Special Forces; Preventive action forces; Main forces of action and reaction. Integrated military capabilities will have to be available during peacetime too, especially in the field of special forces, tactical air force, military transport and means of information. [3]

5. The role of the Romanian armed forces in the actions against terrorism and anti-terrorist action / the role of the Romanian armed forces in preventing and countering terrorism

Romania has not faced major terrorist risks until now. Although our country presents geopolitical and geostrategic interests, it is not yet a terrorist confrontation space or a proper environment to the development of terrorist actions.

The terrorist threats and risks that may affect our country result from: the continuous degradation of human condition; the expansion of drug trafficking, prostitution and human trafficking on our territory; the evolution of underground economy's structures, the money laundering and illegal activities; the existence of some Kurdish, Muslim, Islamic minorities which could represent terrorism support structures; the existence of people who, in the absence of other means and activities that can bring them prosperity, can be recruited in terrorist organizations and structures.



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In order to accomplish its role in the fight against terrorism, Romanian military forces should be provided with the necessary structures (conception, leadership and execution), an adequate training system and a good strategy. The role of the army in anti-terrorist war is: to gather and analyze the information about terrorist structures, training bases, depots, action systems, communication networks, etc; to protect strategic objectives and other important objectives against terrorist actions; to seek, to discover, to attack and to rapidly destroy terrorist structures and infrastructures; to participate in the liquidation of the consequences of terrorist attacks (when they occur by surprise); to take action on the strengths points of terrorist networks (structures); to act, together with the anti-terrorist coalition, against international training bases and other terrorist structures and infrastructures.

National Response System for Critical/Emergency Situations

Nowadays, the world is face with asymmetrical conflicts, atypical threats, chaos, organized crime at a planetary level, and situations which require emergency conditions. Therefore, the most efficient way to organize the reaction (action) against terrorism is to establish a National Response System for Critical/Emergency Situations that would also include the national anti-terrorist subsystem (or system). This national system of reaction (action) in a borderline situation must be led by the Supreme Council of Defense of the Country or by the Government, which have not only the ability, but also the means necessary for any kind of intervention or reaction, including in the anti-terror warfare system.

The forces involved in this type of war are numerous and they must really be joined in this response system. These are: the intelligence services; the air, land, sea, space, information and cultural space surveillance institutions; the central and local government institutions; the calamities and disasters response institutions; the public order institutions; the intelligence protection institutions; the armed forces. [3]

6. Conclusions

Terrorism is a special type of war aimed at destroying lives and value systems. Terrorism strikes by surprise in vulnerable spots, so that it kills, destroys, frightens, and creates spectacular effects, an atmosphere of hell and human misery. Terrorism is becoming more and more a tool of politics, very hard to stop and also to control. The main weapon of terrorism is man - the intelligent and fanatical man, who is capable of any sacrifice and, above all, is capable of inventing the most intelligent and effective means of action. He is hard-driven by his religion, so he is not easy to be stopped.

The society remains very vulnerable to the nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological terrorist attacks which, in the next stage, will multiply and diversify, their effects being particularly serious. The criminal terrorism will become more and more organized, highly globalized, with leadership and action organizations all over the world, which will radically change the configuration of the international strategic space, these threats becoming very dangerous and creating the need for a strategic response. Therefore, the anti-terrorism measures system must include the creation and maintenance of a strategic situation dominated by a coherent and permanent system of civil and military surveillance of areas, states, organizations and even of those who suspect to be part from terrorist networks.

At the same time, it is necessary to develop a system of anti-terrorist training of the population, economy and institutions. It is necessary to set up, according to the EU standards, a



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National Response System for Critical/Emergency Situations, which must also include a significant specialized component of research, investigation and combating terrorism of any kind, including cyber-information and NBC (nuclear, chemical and biological) weapons/systems (*or something of the kind, you can choose something suitable; as far as I know, NBC most commonly refers to protective equipment such as suits, but you may know better; in any case, you need a noun there*), in order to prevent a phenomenon which is likely to become the most serious threat to at the beginning of the millennium.

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