

TERRORISM AND RADICALIZATION IN THE 21st CENTURY

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***Abstract:** Different types of terrorism we have experienced lately, were based on extreme political and the unleash factors are complex. In addition to traditional threats to security like criminality, organized crime, cybercrime, border crimes and violence, today we face a terrorism that manages to take various forms acquiring a perennial feature. Dimensions that it reached enables terrorists to recruit more and more followers, especially young people, through propaganda campaigns, especially online, that have become genuine instruments of radicalization. Terrorist networks have thus, gained followers worldwide, mostly young Muslims from the West who have been marginalized by the society, their dissatisfactions create a propitious environment for indoctrination with extremist ideologies. The psychological profile of young people prone to radicalization is made in time, the vast majority of them are of Arab origin, vulnerable, isolated from society because of their religion and suffering from complexed image. Radical Islamism for them is perceived as an opportunity and thus legitimizing their maladjustment and guiding them to a sacred cause for revenge on the society in which they did not adapt. We talk about the paradigm of domestic terrorists who are part of groups of young from second and third generation of immigrants settled in different parts of Europe, and young people converted to Islam, becoming the so-called "lone wolfs".*

***Keywords:** radicalization; terrorism; international terrorism; terrorist; lone wolf; security*

1. TERRORISM AND RADICALIZATION

Terrorism represents, in its essence, in its broadest sense given to this term, the actions of terror or intimidation of a population through violence or compelling a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from performing an action. Through terrorism as a form of action, it means practicing terror. It designates acts likely to cause, in a certain environment, a sense of intense fear, foreboding an inevitable evil. Within the meaning of the concept of terrorism is not interested the nature of the action, but the method of execution. The common feature of terrorism acts is represented by the terror, element of utmost importance both socially and legally point of view. It is widely recognized that the terrorist attacks are perpetrated most often by means that can cause common distress and which endangers, through its effects, the interests of a large group of citizens. Seen only through one of its features - for example, the use of means capable of causing a common danger - different types of actions that can be committed not necessarily imply, nor as an intention nor as a result, an act of terrorism. Terrorism does not necessarily involve the use of certain means to forge a common danger. The

population can be terrorized by murder, causing explosions, major damages, etc. The specialized literature emphasized that ordinary terrorism can appear under any offense of this type, which can range from violent to intimidation acts. This does not mean that ordinary terrorism is not particularly dangerous, especially when it manifests in the form of crimes leading to a common danger. In this case, if a single act can arouse the suspicion of repetition, capable of unleashing the terror, the author of this acquires the attribute of terrorist. The act of terrorism is characterized by the following elements (Bodunescu, 1997:19):

- *The intention to create a state of alert.* A constitutive element of the criminal offense of terrorism is to incite intense fear and panic on the population. The fact that the population was scared, anxious, agitated, etc., is a feature of the criminal offense, which can attract the criminal liability of the author. For the criminal offense is not interested in the result, the effect produced, how much the population is terrorized, it is sufficient that the process used is likely to produce this result. Terrorizing the population is the feature that gives a particular seriousness to this criminal offense, providing a clear sense to the word terrorism itself.

- *Taking by surprise and without any discrimination of victims.* The Legal doctrine of many countries enclose terrorism in the homicide or attempted homicide offences. Sociologists believe that the terrorist seeks to "assassinate" social conscience, "the soul of public opinion" (Bodunescu, 1997:19). The authors conceive, normally, a plan, they prepare and execute it in a coherent way and to maintain the effect of the moral paralysis induced by the gravity acts and fear provoked, attacks occur in series and within an extensive range, gaining international dimensions.

- *Using methods and means capable of causing a state of general or common danger* (explosive devices, car bombs, toxic products or infectious agents or microbial, etc.). The notion of general or common danger requires an action with the consequence of suppression of life or to damage the body integrity of a greater number of people within a community, understanding in this context of the concept also the interrupted acts of, or the ones that could not produce effect, but capable of producing such consequences. The criminal, terrorist method in its attainment it involves preparing attacks "in serial" and "in extension", often multi-purpose: to control the masses and paralyze their leaders or chiefs; to draw attention to terrorist group's claims; revenge for the injustices intentionally made to them by the state officials in the country where attack is taking place or to a group of people or in relation to a given situation; to encourage change in state policy principles, etc.

Terrorism, in its manifestations, it presents multiple perspectives, which resulted in a classification by different criteria. This classification takes into account both the subjective element of the criminal offense, namely the psychological element, motive or intention which led to the act of violence and the material element or the action itself (Geamănu, 1981:391). Ordinary terrorism means the kind of terrorism that falls under criminal law as an ordinary criminal offense, but aggravated by the method of implementation: through terror. They are acts incriminated by the common law, acts whose mobile is neither political nor social, but it is characterized by extreme violence as a method of realization.¹ Social terrorism is that form of terrorism that aims to put into practice an ideology, social or economic

doctrine or the destruction of a social organization, *dolus specialis* in this field, representing its intends to change the social order in a given country. The way the action manifests has, usually, consequences within the borders of that country and does not cause a disturbance of international order. In this regard, national courts were viewed as the only competent body to deal with such cases.

Terrorism can also be seen in terms of the area in which it takes place and the extent of its effects. If the preparation of the terrorism act, the execution and consequences it produces, confines the area within the boundaries of a single country, we can talk about national or domestic terrorism. National terrorism can take different forms of common law, political or social terrorism, but with effects within the borders of a single country. This type of terrorism is manifested most often in the form of political or social terrorism, being directed against the political organization of a state or its form, or even against its representatives (governments, political parties, personalities in power, etc.), but always with effects within the country. It may be noted that terrorist criminal activity goes directly against public policy. The author follows an attack on public order, creating an atmosphere of concern and a state of terror. To achieve his goal, the author will choose the appropriate means to create terror which he aims at, such as: attacks on life, health or freedom of his opponents that - given the collective action of terror - he will choose between persons holding an important function in the public life. Through his criminal activity, the author of the domestic terrorist act will also prejudice material goods, but this destruction is also perpetrated in order to cause a general danger. It can use means whose use can cause immense damage and can sometimes hit targets which were not initially in the author's attention. In this context it can be mentioned fires, explosives used to destroy buildings, communication ways or forests, interruptions produced in the functioning of the public institutions, spread of epidemics, poisoning drinking water and food.

International terrorism represents a special type of offense, characterized by a foreign element: the preparation and the execution of this criminal offense, its passive and active subjects, the motive, the means of achievement of the author involves several states². The set of crimes and

¹ Thus, there are acts of terrorism targeting particular purposes, or aiming a personal interest such as obtaining money, blackmail attempts, practices of gangs of robbers, offenses similar to those of common law and regulated in all criminal codes (Geamănu, 1981).

² "International terrorism represents the use or the threat to use violence for political purposes, creating a generalized state of fear, by an individual or group

offenses that constitute terrorism occur in some circumstances, an international character because they are either committed or the effects they produce are extended in several states, either by undermining fundamental values, whose protection and respect is a prerequisite for maintaining good relations and understanding among states and international peace. Acts of international terrorism are often prepared in a territory other than where the offense takes place or has effect. In some cases, the criminal activities undertaken to commit the terrorist offense occurs or is extended in several states, which prints an international character to the criminal offense. Most experts in this field believe that the act of international terrorism must be analyzed under the following aspects: the nationality of the author or accomplices of the crime, as active subjects; the nationality of the victim or victims as passive subjects; which State belongs the territory the terrorist act was prepared and which state belongs the territory where the effects were produced; which state belongs the territory where the author took refuge after committing the act of terrorism (Framework Decision of the Council of Europe on combating terrorism). International terrorism is committed by identical actions of any act of terror: killings, serious injuries against the person, kidnappings, taking hostages, etc., committed with the intention of creating a state of danger, fear and panic among the population. Also, international terrorism causes disruption of economic and social life, catastrophes (destruction of means or lines of communication, poisoning sources or watercourses, explosions, spreading epidemics, etc.) which affect the right to life and freedom of an entire human community and, it endangers, at the same time, the peaceful relations between nations. Terrorist acts with an international character can create distrust between states, a state of insecurity with negative consequences for political and economic relations between states. In general, the sphere of this category of terrorism exclude the terrorist activity aimed at internal affairs of states and involves the existence of the international trait.

when they are acting for or against a government, when such actions seek to influence the attitudes or behavior of a social group broader than the immediate victims and when through the nationality or external links of the authors, their location, the nature of their victims, institutional or human or the mechanism of achievement, their ramifications, go beyond the national borders of a State” (Cooper, 1976).

Terrorist actions, wherever they occur, may bring serious damage to a group of people of different nationality of the state where the action occurs and the preparation and execution of these exceeds usually the borders a state. From the material point of view and in relation to their subject, terrorist actions pose a threat to other countries. Hence the need for solidarity in the fight against such crimes. On the basis of the problems related to the terrorist attack, is taking place or may take place, a conflict is likely to disturb relations between the countries involved. In terms of the application of criminal law in space, for the offenses of political terrorism, as well as for other crimes *delicta juris gentium*, all states must accept the principle of universality. For these offenses should therefore apply criminal laws of each state, regardless of where the acts of terror were committed and regardless of the nationality of the author.

Talking about terrorism and radicalization, we must look carefully into the recent terrorist attacks that took place in Europe, which emphasized the need to eradicate them. For example, attacks from Nice, France, where a Tunisian-born French citizen killed 84 persons and injured another hundreds while they were watching a firework display to mark Bastille Day, a knifeman was shot in Louvre when he was trying to attack a group of soldiers, another attacks took place in July 2016 in Germany, where a Iranian-born German citizen went on a deadly rampage in Munich, an axeman hacked the passengers on a train in Wurtzburg, a Syrian blew himself up injured 12 persons in Ansbach, the Russian ambassador in Ankara, Turkey were killed by a police officer who was militating for Syria, in March 2017, in London, an Muslim English citizen killed 5 people and injured another 50 near Houses of Parliament, in april 2017, four people were killed in Stockholm when an Uzbek slammed a large truck into an upscale department store in a mall, and the most recent one, on April 2017 a Muslim gunman opened fire on Champs Elysee killing an police officer.

The fact that the authors are from European family, they filled the European Security Agenda with essential parts of provisions on measures to combat these flagella via local actors. The two phenomena are not new, and the last manifestations of these, their size and their instruments of propagation, represent a new paradigm of the current security environment and requires a treatment based both on urgent implications concerning the security of the two phenomena and the reasons for their occurrence. Europe has long been the subject to various types of classical but

also ideological terrorism, the concern of eradication is part of the European and national security strategies, signals regarding the spread of terrorism are frequent.

Terrorist acts are based on a number of factors challenges increasingly dynamic and diverse, other than radicalization. On the other hand, radicalization has a multitude of triggers and targets, some of which are feelings of personal alienation, social exclusion, vulnerability, discrimination, diverse trauma or psychological problems that often are exploited by recruiters through social channels or other online communication tools. Most of the terrorists are considered victims, not aggressors perceiving themselves as representatives of the oppressed: workers, peasants, minorities etc., generally groups considered unable to defend themselves. They are the "enlightened" among the mass of ignorant, the ones "chosen" that recognize "the dangers" that the masses do not notice, the fight being an "obligation" and "duty" not a matter of voluntary choice. Most often terrorists have the consciousness of their moral superiority, they consider themselves more sensitive and noble, idealists that society does not deserve.

According to their own definition, the term "terrorist" has become a subjective label and improperly applied by the "enemy" and, in the specific time and place, this label should be replaced in people's consciousness with the image of "fighter for freedom" of social, ethnic or economic "redeeming". Terrorist attack becomes a phase of "liberation fight", a superior means of legitimization. Thus, many terrorists define their role as being the victim, sacrificed on the altar of ideals and noble causes; whether or not this picture is consistent with reality, the notion of being ready to die for a cause is determined in relation with how the terrorist perceive itself. Everyone involved in the fight against the state or society often see "the enemy" as more powerful than them, with many possibilities and actionable alternatives available. For this reason, terrorists consider that they are "convicted to terrorism" as the only way of confronting repression and oppression exercised by the state or the government, terrorism not being a free choice made by them.

Radicalization grows mainly in urban areas and is caused by a number of ideology which instigate to racism, hatred against religion, nationality or gender. This is the expression of a problem of inclusion and it represents a process that generates violent extremism and terrorism. The definition adopted by the European Commission is the following: "a phenomenon through which

individuals adopt opinions, point of views and ideas which could lead to terrorist acts" (see European Commission, 2017).

Recent terrorist attacks in Europe, Middle East and Asia have put on the spotlight the Islamic extremism, speeches and religious symbols being improperly used to justify violence. Religion conditions the relationships between individuals and their positive interaction in everyday life, enhances the feeling of belonging to a social group. The healthy construction of the individual is based on respect for its religious, cultural and traditional options, aspects that can successfully prevent and combat his radicalization. The internet is commonly used by terrorist networks that allocate signified resources for publishing training manuals, tips for procuring arms and ammunition, tips for bomb-making, selecting targets and planning or carrying out attacks, videos of successful attacks, torture and executions of victims, messages of support and encouragement of terrorist actions. At the same time, they promote images and movies with Muslim wounded, dead, their homes destroyed, with members of the organizations that help children, the elderly, in order to arouse the feelings of adhesion to their cause. The virtual environment allows terrorists to come into contact with the followers of their cause, thus substituting the physical community with a virtual community, thus gaining an accelerator character of the process of radicalization.

2. MEASURES TO COUNTER RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM

The fight against terrorism and radicalization goes on several levels. The fight against terrorism is taking place, at this time, at the global level and is based on a strategy of annihilation of states that sponsorship this international scourge, which it will lead, according to analysts, to a new model of war, a model that will combine military action with the economic action, computer science action with the space science and geophysics actions.

It has been developed at EU level a number of programs and strategies aimed at combating radicalization among young people in the context of development of religions and multiculturalism, among these the creation of the European Centre for Knowledge on Violent Extremism, development of trainings for professionals in the first line and providing financial support for projects using advanced communication tools and social platforms to fight terrorist propaganda (CE/PRD, 2014).

To prevent these initiatives from multiplying and to combat them, in December 2015 under the auspices of the EU Forum for internet, a number of Member States met which have addressed a number of issues relating to the modalities for enhanced cooperation with the respect of fundamental rights. Security and respect for fundamental rights are not mutually exclusive, they represent complementary objectives. The measures that are being taken concern the limitation of online content of websites with terrorist character and the empowerment of the civil society on combating radicalism propaganda (RAN, 2015) by respecting the principles of proportionality and provide guarantees that ensure accountability and judicial review. The success of these measures consist in a close and effective cooperation between Member States, by dividing the responsibility and mutual trust among the actors involved. In order to collaborate with the private sector and civil society, at the EU level, the European Commission established, the Centre of Excellence *Radicalization Awareness Network* (CoE RAN) which brings together specialists from all member states, network that aims to prevent and combat radicalization that leads to violent extremism. The center of Excellence RAN acts as a network that connects, develops and disseminates expertise on radicalization, while encouraging a dialogue between practitioners, policy makers and academics.

Also at the EU level, a code of conduct (CE/PRD, 2016) has been established to combat disseminating speeches which incite hatred in the online environment, becoming a guarantee that at the level of companies specialized in particular on providing social platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube), speeches that incites to hatred and violates both the European and national legislation will be carefully analyzed and eliminated, at the same time facilitating the reporting towards the competent authorities. Audiovisual services are also closely monitored, the European Parliament Directive (CE/PRD, 2016) containing the obligation for Member States to be vigilant on audiovisual services in order for those not to contain xenophobic and discriminatory messages, otherwise, measures will be taken by notifying and reporting them to national audiovisual services which have the power to control them. They are also in place checks and regular assessments made by the European Commission.

Another strategy promoted by the EU in the long term, is the high quality education designed to prevent social exclusion that can lead to radicalization, being adopted by the European

Commission the *Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education* (CE/PRD, 2016) which promotes a set of common objectives for member states.

Combating and preventing radicalization is embraced by policies and security measures designed to prevent the departure of young people to conflict zones to join terrorist groups such as travel bans, incriminating travel to other countries with terrorist scope or raise awareness among families and friends to collaborate with the competent authorities. These measures are essential to the existing measures in order to strengthen the resistance to radicalization. In this respect it is implemented the Schengen Information System (SIS) that can initiate a range of actions to detect and prosecute terrorists and to discover trails used by suspect terrorists. It is envisaged interchange of information between Member States and Europol (COM (2016) 205) regarding the people suspected of radicalization and others already known for their close monitoring.

Citizens and Member States benefit from the support of the EU in the fight against terrorism and radicalization and the facilitation of coordination and cooperation between the relevant authorities. Europol has acquired an increasingly important expertise on issues related to terrorism and this should be carried forward by bringing its capabilities to ensure the implementation of laws to combat terrorism, by sharing resources and by maximizing the use of the existing structures, services and tools available of the agency in order to achieve scale economies. These could be combined under a European center to combat terrorism in Europol, to further intensified the support granted to the Member States at the EU level, in a secure environment, characterized by the highest level of confidentiality of communications (COM(2015) 185 final). Cooperation between EU Member States is of crucial importance in the fight against terrorism succeeded by the need to revise all existing normative acts on combating terrorism in order to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorists' fighters. This aspect is part of Member States' efforts on preventing radicalization and violent extremism and terrorism. It shall be emphasise the importance of RAN Center that provides best practices and expertise in this regard.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The terrorism and radicalization phenomenon are real challenges for the current security

environment involving multiple reactions based on understanding and proximity to releasers factors until the establishment of immediate security measures. The Communication of the European Commission regarding the implementation of the European Security Agenda mentions in fact that one of the main priorities of Member States is preventing radicalization and inclusion of people already radicalized in de-radicalization programs and preventing them from disseminating messages that incite hatred or xenophobia. Both terrorism and radicalization can be combated based on quality education, adopting coherent policies on assistance, close coordination of financial instruments to support the actions of assistance, close cooperation between EU Member States, ensuring an adequate legal framework, last but not least military interventions should be proportional to the risk of threats in accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, in other words, bringing together all internal and external dimensions of security and strengthening the pillars of action.

The Lisbon Treaty provides the legal and practical methods to ensure cooperation between the authorities of the Member States, cooperation that can bring real change in the prevention, detection and immediate response to security threats and all the measures that the EU and also the Member States will adopt regarding the activities related to terrorist offenses and also terrorism offenses and determining penalties will have to respect the principle of legality, presumption of innocence and the right to defense. Moreover, measures will have to comply with the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political opinions or any kind, but also the elimination of all forms of discrimination or racism to prevent and avoid the stigmatizing of any particular ethnic group or community.

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