FIGHTING OF *WESTERN INTELLIGENCE* WITH ISLAMIC TERRORISM

Asadi NEJMAH

Carmel Collage, Israel

The state of Israel even prior to its establishment, faces, in daily life, terrorist organizations that want to destroy it. Terrorism and terrorist acts as implied from the original meaning of the word – fear, anxiety, terror, are meant to plant fear amongst the attacked public and bring about its demoralization and confusion, and disruption of routine life. Occasionally it is performed also as an act of revenge in a blood circle of violence. A substantial part of terrorism weapons is the extensive publicity its activity gains in public, through electronic and printed media. In terrorism, a blow to the "soft stomach" of the state (civilians) is performed, with the purpose of causing the state to give in to the demands of terrorism operators. In the basis of terrorism is also an objection to the basis of legitimacy of the ruling government, in that it is not capable of guarantying the safety of its citizens and maintain public order.

This article presents the attitudes and ways of operation of terrorist organizations and how *Western intelligence* attempts to thwart, foil and prevent these organizations from casing for destruction and victims in human lives and state.

Keywords: *terrorism, Islamic terrorism, terrorist act, war, intelligence, policy, PLO.*

COMBATEREA TERORISMULUI ISLAMIC PRIN *WESTERN INTELLIGENCE*

Chiar de la înfiinţare, statul Israel s-a confruntat, în viaţa de zi cu zi, cu organizaţiile teroriste, care urmăresc să-l distrugă. Actele de terorism, aşa cum reiese din sensul originar al cuvântului – frică, anxietate, teroare, sunt menite să implanteze frica în rândul populaţiei, s-o demoralizeze şi să perturbeze viaţa cotidiană. Uneori teroarea se dovedeşte a fi un act de răzbunare. Prin acte de terorism se dă o lovitură la „stomacul moale" al statului, adică civililor. Actele de terorism sunt comise, de asemenea, pentru a „demonstra" lipsa de legitimitate a statului, incapacitatea lui de a asigura securitatea cetăţenilor săi.

În articol sunt specificate modalităţile de funcţionare a organizaţiilor teroriste, autorul informând cum *Western intelligence* luptă pentru a preveni şi contracara actele lor, astfel încât să nu provoace distrugeri de bunuri materiale şi să nu aducă pierderi de vieţi omeneşti.

Cuvinte-cheie: *terorism, terorism islamic, act terorist, război informaţional.*

Introduction

"I see only water and buildings. My god! My God!" – these were the last words of Madeline Amy Sweeney, flight attendant of "American Airlines" aircraft that crashed into one of the Twin Towers.

A "Boeing 767" airplane took off on September 11, from Boston on its way to Los Angeles, carrying aboard 81 passengers, 9 crewmembers and 2 pilots. The plane was one of four plains hijacked in that grim day and crashed into central buildings in the US. The planes were hijacked at that time by terrorists belonging to Islamic terrorism organizations and wreaked havoc and fear in the American public. In that cruel day, when thousands of people were killed, the cruel face of Islamic terrorism were revealed to the Western and democratic world, with which the Israeli society has been dealing for a long time, even prior to founding of the state of Israel.

The Islamic terrorism hits by surprise innocent people with the purpose of creating an atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty. They attack public means of transportation and do not spare neither women nor children, this fact makes them particularly threatening and hated [14].

What is Islamic terrorism?

The term "terrorism" can be defined as a threat or use of violence for political purposes, in order to affect the attitudes and behaviors of a wider target group than the immediate victims. Terrorism can be also described as a kind of war – a war on a lower level or a war by proxy. When speaking about terrorism deterrence, the meaning is of taking measures that would cause terrorists to avoid an action or mitigating their behavior [5].

Terrorists know that terrorism is continuance of policy by other means and the actions serve the primary political purpose or at least one of the secondary purposes. Although, during committing acts of terrorism it is not clear to statesmen what exactly those terrorists want. The terrorists know exactly what they want and what they are fighting for, as they are the weak party, by their definition. They are focused on a single purpose. The structure of their organization is relatively simple, and they usually do not observe hierarchy [11].

The political purposes of Islamic terrorism organizations

The accumulated knowledge on PLO as a veteran terrorist organization can be used for understanding the rest of terrorist organizations. The main political purpose of the secular Palestinian organizations incorporated within PLO, originally was termination of the state of Israel and replacing it with a Palestinian state [3].

Over the years, the main political purpose has been accompanied by many secondary purposes, which are:

1. To hurt Israel in any way possible – physically and psychologically.
2. To undermine the legitimacy for existence of Israel (in the UN).
3. To isolate Israel physically and politically.
4. To deter the supporters of Israel from cooperating with it.
5. To shatter the image of Israel as an invincible country.
6. To divert the Israeli resources from preparing and arranging for war.
7. To present the Palestinian problem in a dramatic manner.
8. To reinforce the level of the Israeli-Arab conflict.
9. To reinforce self-confidence of the Palestinians.
10. To recruit other Palestinians and Arabs and make them more radical [8].

The "armed conflict" has been defined as the only strategy to free Palestine and therefore, it should not be considered as a tactic. It was important for the Arabs that the world would see in their action an "armed struggle", an expression that brings about an association of liberation, freedom and independence, rather than "terrorism" that invokes a negative response [3].

The political purpose of PLO presently is to realize the peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians, which would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside with Israel. The change in political attitude of PLO has invoked objection from several Palestinian terrorist organizations remaining loyal to the original non-compromising notion [12].

Those organizations that joined PLO by way of peace are limited presently, due to:

a. Arafat renouncing terrorism and presently the Palestinian police is obligated to prevention of terrorist activity.
b. The silence of radical Arab countries (Libya and Syria).
c. The change is soviet attitude.
d. Operational and financial difficulties [5].

Religious terrorist organizations

The purposes of the religious terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah, Islamic Amal in Lebanon, the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad (mainly in the Gaza strip), include two elements:

a. Elimination of the state of Israel.
b. Establishing an Islamic republic in Lebanon (Hezbollah) and in Palestine (Hamas and Islamic Jihad).

Hezbollah has additional purpose being the expulsion of Israel from Southern Lebanon, however, its primary purpose is establishing an Islamic republic [6].

What is termed by PLO the "armed struggle" is termed by religious organizations the "Jihad" – a religious war. These organizations are very much influenced by the Islamic religious teachers, their doctrine and preaching. The roots of Hezbollah are in Najaf – the Shi'ite study center in Iraq. A place where amongst others, Khomeini has been teaching and in which the idea has been instilled of establishing an Islamic republic in the minds and hearts of students. Regarding Hamas and Islamic Jihad, their leaders have been studying Islam in "Al-Azar" University of Cairo and have been influenced both by teachers and radical Islamic Egyptians (the "Muslim brothers" and others) [14].

It should be emphasized that the origin of all members of Hezbollah, is in the Muslim Shi'ite faction, whereas the origin of people of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Territories, as all Muslim Palestinians, are in the Sunni faction. In religious organizations (mainly in Hezbollah), the Alma'a (Muslim religious sages) are the most significant leading echelon, such as Sheikh Fadlallah in Southern Lebanon. All these organizations have relations to one Muslim country (Iran) or another, and they depend on it and are ruled by it one way or another [10].

Terrorism as a tool for achieving the purpose

Terrorism has a key function in these organization. The reason for this is simple: they have no other choice (according to their viewpoint) by being the weak party, they consider terrorism as the only effective measure

they can take in order to achieve their purpose. By terrorist acts they would be able to hurt the enemy with the hope of gaining a more extended assistance of the Palestinian people by raising its morale [1].

Suicide acts have been performed mainly by Shi'ite organizations in Lebanon; the fact is that nearly all these acts have caused great and extended damage, clarifies at least part of the reasons for decisions made by countries hurt by this terrorism to withdraw from Lebanon [12].

Many problems are entailed in holding hostages and in kidnapping. One of them is the humiliation of the governments involved, as any action taken by the government in light of an event entailing holding of hostages, is always subject to criticism. Surrendering to the demand of terrorists is interpreted by some, as weakness and as encouragement of terrorists to repeat the impressive deed they have performed. Non-compromising on the part of a government is interpreted by others, as lack of responsibility and recklessness, and as a failure of liberal democracy to express its most basic responsibility – maintaining the lives of its citizens [10].

Hostage kidnapping has been performed by various organizations in Lebanon and mainly by the fundamentalist Shi'ite organizations. In many instances, the terrorist attacks were meant to serve the "big brother" – Iran. In other instances, the purpose of kidnappings was retrieving brothers in arms from prison. General Bogi Yaelon says that terrorist acts of kidnapping of an Israeli soldier as well as a civilian, is a priority on the part of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. It seems to them as a legitimate act in the Palestinian public opinion, should eventually, a negotiation be possible, at the end of which inmates will be released. We witness quite a few such attempts, of those arriving to hitchhiking stations and those stopped in the planning stage [13].

Terrorism deterrence

Terrorism and deterrence are two concepts that do not coincide. Terrorism, the weapon of the weak, assumes that its opponent has great power. The strategy of terrorist organizations, as well as tactics, is planned in a way that the opponent is not able to use its great power against it [15].

The term "deterrence" is based on "existing power" that deters by its existence, without being activated, whereas terrorism, which justification for existence is the action without which it would not achieve its purpose can be deterred only by elimination or by means of political solution, that would fulfil the purposes of a terrorist organization. The moment it ceases to operate, the organization is dismantled and is extinguished [15].

No terrorist organization will agree to stop acting or give in by its initiative, unless achieving its political purpose in full or on its most part, or forced to do so violently. Moreover, terrorist organizations are willing to pay a high price for their actions – sacrificing people's life! Therefore, deterrence is not effective. What is left to do is deter terror selectively, in some issues, in some areas and targets or in certain periods [12].

Selective or limited deterrence or alternately, deterrence, is the strategy Israel adopts against Palestinian terrorism for over 30 years, a strategy by exhaustion or prevention actions [10].

The purpose of Palestinian terrorism has been of an existential character in all matters of Israel; however, "armed struggle" has not posed an existential threat. For the last 30 years (not including the period of the bus terrorist attacks in the last 4 years) the losses of Israel due to Palestinian terrorism have been less than the losses caused by car accidents over a period of 18 months. Therefore, this is not an existential problem. The never-ending pool of human resources, at the disposal of the Palestinian organizations, their spreading in the Arab countries, as well as in Israel and in the Territories, the existence of hundreds of thousands of refugees, the pressure from hostile Arab countries, political, financial and military assistance on the part of many of the Arab countries, as well as a substantial international assistance – all these mean that the extermination of Palestinian and Islamic terrorism or its utter deterrence are far beyond the capabilities of Israel [13].

The limited deterrence of Israel against Islamic and Palestinian terrorism, have both defensive and offensive elements, and also non-military components such as public information, diplomatic actions international and multilateral cooperation – for example, anti-terrorist legislation [12].

The defensive elements include security and trips in public places, sophisticated electronic equipment integrated in defense posts and patrols along the border, as well as a line of defensive measures from planes in airports in embassies and representatives abroad [15].

The offensive elements include search for prevention and arrests based on intelligence information, raids by helicopters carried special forces, or navy forces on terrorist bases, air strikes, agents operations, elimination and capturing of planners of terrorist attacks, these attacks might have a deterring and driven effect [15].

In deterrence, the timing and choice of target or aim are of immense importance, as if the choice is not careful enough, the political and diplomatic response might yield opposite results and turn the political operation

into ineffective [7] (note: as in the commando attack of Beirut airport in 1968 and the bombing of 14 passenger airplanes of Arab countries. The world's response was that Israel operates "state terrorism").

A fundamental of maximal importance of intelligence that enacts anti-terrorist strategy and tactics has proven itself countless times. Intelligence that is ready in advance has a better starting point in the game of deterrence and prevention [7].

In order to avoid the dilemma between escalation which results cannot be considered fully in advance, and between being caught in a war of attrition that is costly for us – it is better to prevent a war of attrition through specific deterrence with promotion of the peace process. However, here is a catch which is common in deterrence: in order to deter a war of attrition we need to formulate and maintain a credible image of not following the "rules of the game" and of willingness of escalation in a limited conflict [1].

In order to escape these catches it is recommended to operate according to the principle adjacent to thinking in history that it is better to pay a higher price in one case in order to prevent a formulation of set strategy of war of attrition against Israel on a general level of conscious strategy, therefore, it is advisable to act against a war of attrition in four stages with a small time gap between them:
1. To act within limited rules of the game and hit the very sensitive spots in opposite side, such as the control and governing system as well as decision makers.
2. To warn the opposite side, be it directly or by proxy, that should the acts of attrition not cease immediately, there would be extreme escalation from our side and we will level retribution of very painful "surprises".
3. To hold to demonstrative actions, that illustrate our decisiveness to realize the threat, such as acts of demonstration, concentration of forces, etc.
4. To realize the threat and deliver a ten times harder blow to the one starting the war, while a tactical surprise and in a controlled manner that allows for ending the collision [1].

There might be instances when we have the interest to extend the collision as well as escalate towards a comprehensive war, while utilizing the war of attrition an enemy has started. In such a case, it is better to move towards a complete escalation [14].

What can be done against international terrorism?

Only a defensive approach will not suffice for withstanding this multiple-tentacle monster, that threatens not only Israel and the Middle East but the entire free world. It is clear that there is a vital need for alertness, preparedness, intelligence and rest of defensive efforts. But it is not enough. All the democratic countries need to take unequivocal offensive measures including the following:

First, the Islamic terrorist organizations have offices in many countries around the world. They operate propaganda through terrorism and serve as centers for terrorist acts. These offices should be closed down.

Second, the free nations should warn collaboratively, the governments of those states or any other government that supports terrorism, that they will not allow them to conceal terrorism behind the front and immunity of their embassies.

Third, as terrorism can cause harm rapidly and unexpectedly anywhere on the face of the Earth, the countries should reach an agreement regarding intelligence and military cooperation. This will facilitate the initiation of activity against terrorists [9].

The war of Western intelligence against Islamic terrorism

There is undoubtedly, a most serious intelligence failure behind the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 in the United States. As the intelligence organizations of the US have extensive and diverse budgets and technical means, it is likely to assume (which has been put forward in foreign Networks) that bits of information have been afloat but the addressing thereof was incorrect [11].

Admiral Folbio Martini, one of the senior personnel of Italian intelligence, relates to what happened in the 60's and the 70's when for the first time, the Intelligence Services had to deal with a new reality, the reality of terrorism which arrived, on the most part, from the Middle East [14].

In this period, terrorism has become a component of a cold war. As opposed to Army Chiefs of Staff for whom the cold war was on paper only, for Intelligence Services around the world the situation was different. For them the cold war was very hot. In any case, in the 60's and the 70's, terrorism has become a problem of a different order of magnitude, which was not known until then [15].

In previous centuries, there have also been instances of anarchist terrorism, but it has always been an act of small groups that killed individuals. The First World War in fact, started as a result of such a terrorist act, but the phenomenon has never been thus complicated, as extensive and violent as in the period after Second World War. There has been terrorism with nationality association such as the Bask or Irish terrorism, and there has been Middle Eastern terrorism which source is Palestinian – a very large-scale activity [6].

The new terrorism employed tactics and techniques successfully attempted by national Guerilla fighters in the Second World War, and as well used the developments in the field of explosives and personal weapons, as well as the dramatic increase in air transportation and increased freedom of mobility between various countries [15].

Thus, it turned out that the Intelligence Services – that were born as a tool for being acquainted with plans and abilities of an enemy – have been assigned the task of war with terrorism, which was not at all similar to war between countries and was a new and unique breed of warfare. Since the Intelligence Services have not been facing the KGB any more, but rather, a long list of terrorist groups fighting by any means possible and that could be dealt with on a national level by the Security Services, in the process, beyond the borders there was a need for involving the Intelligence Services as well. Thus, the need was born for international coopera-tion and closer ties between Services operating on the same side [14]. The late developments in the Middle East have decreased to some degree the centrality of the international aspect of Palestinian terrorism that unfortunately has become an internal matter in the Middle East and the Territories [2].

However, it does not mean that the Services can decrease the level of their preparedness facing this kind of threat, as in parallel to the opinion of one, a new and ugly form of international terrorism arises and comes to sight, terrorism which source is Islamic fundamentalism [11].

This new type of terrorism, which is not less violent than its predecessors, and that has a more radical nature than these, seems presently as an even less controllable and therefore, much more dangerous than the Middle Eastern terrorism that is mostly Palestinian. This is a phenomenon with thousand faces, supported by a most complex psychological junction in which the definite wish for self-sacrifice is doubled by further factors the likes of a deeply rooted pride in the ancient history of Islam, aspirations of vengeance suppressed for a long period of time, raging religious fanaticism, hatred which roots lie in poverty and social problems, etc. [3].

Summary

Terrorism is use of violence for achieving political purposes and affecting a wider group than the immediate victims. Terrorist groups (according to their viewpoint) have not many options by being the weak party, they consider terrorism as the only effective measure that they can employ in order to achieve their purpose [9].

In can be seen in the terrorist attacks in the US, that the terrorist organization that committed the act has achieved what it has intended. It wreaked havoc, destruction, thousands of casualties and fear in the Western world, while achieving its purpose by losing the lives of only a small number of its people [5].

The religion of Islam is one of the largest religions in the world that adhere to moral values and do not encourage terrorism. Terrorism is imported into the Muslim world not less than bombs and guns, which the terrorist use. Some fundamentalist streams in the Islam interpret an uncompromising rendition of the Islam. The Western world is abhorred by an Islamic fundamentalist as it symbolizes democracy and equality and the Muslims, from time immemorial, have considered the West as being responsible for the restraining and fall of Islam in the history [9].

Terrorism would not have been able to reach its current size or international scope without the support of countries and without cooperation between terrorist groups around the world [4]. Six countries in the Middle East have adopted terrorism as a primary warfare method: Iraq, Libya, Syria, Southern Yemen, Iran and former Soviet Union [2]. Therefore, it is clear that only a defensive approach would not manage to withstand this multiple-tentacle monster and that unequivocal international offensive measure are to be taken [7].

Bibliography:

1. BEN-DAVID, L. *Terrorist organizations fighting Israel*. Israeli Knesset, 2004.
2. BEN-REUVEN, A. Challenges of a commander in fighting terrorism in our times, 2005. *Maarachot*, 401.
3. DERIDA, Z. In: G. BORADORI. *Philosophy in times of terrorism – talks with Habermas*. Tel Aviv, the Unified Kibbutz, 2004.

4. FOWLER, K. *Medieval Mercenaries, vol. 1: The Great Companies*. Oxford, 2001.
5. FROMKIN, D. The Strategy of Terrorism. In: *Foreign Affairs*, 2006, 53(4).
6. GAT, A. *War in Human Civilization*. Oxford, 2006.
7. GOLAN, A. Quicksand? Intelligence on partners and allies. In: *Strategic update*, 2011, 14(3).
8. HARARI, N. *What is terrorism*. Jerusalem: The Hebrew University, 2010.
9. HARARI, Y. *Special Operations in the Age of Chivalry*. Woodbridge, 2007, p.100-1550.
10. KALB, M. & SAIVETZ, C. *Israel Hezbollah war of 2006: Media as a weapon in asymmetric conflict*. Rothschild Caesarea school of communication. Tel-Aviv University, 2007.
11. PINHAS, E. *Aspects of terrorism and fight with terrorism*. Transmitted University series. Tel Aviv, 2004.
12. SHAUL, S. *Terrorism as emissary of the Imam: 20 year of Shi'ite terrorism*. The Interdisciplinary Center of Herzliya, 2001.
13. SHMIDEL, N. Logic-philosophic view on kidnapping business. In: *Haaretz*, Dec. 26, 2009.
14. SWEITZER, I., SIBONI, G. & YOGEV, E. Cyberspace and terrorist organizations. In: *Military and strategy*, 2011, 3(3).
15. WEINER, A. War against terrorism – by direct contact or contra warfare. In: *Maarachot*, 2006, 406.

Prezentat la 15.02.2015