

## International terrorism and the basic ways to deal with it at the present stage

Sergey Anatolievich VAVRENYUK\*

### Abstract

*International terrorism is one of the global problems of today. In recent years it has increased and spread in Eastern and Western Europe. This study focused on the emergence and spread of international terrorism, as well as finding ways to deal with it at the present stage. The article provides statistics over the past decade about the spread of terrorism in the world, in particular in the European Union (EU) and Eastern Europe. The paper's main aim is to identify ways to combat international terrorism, in order to propose specific forms and methods of combating this phenomenon in the EU as well as in Eastern Europe.*

**Keywords:** international terrorism, crime, anti-terrorism centers, international organizations, the terrorist threat

### Introduction

Terror is a physical violence, including the annihilation of political opponents. Terrorism can be regarded as a constant companion of humanity, and is one of the most dangerous and unpredictable phenomena of modern times. So far, it has acquired different shapes and menacing proportions. One or another terrorist act may cause a massive loss of life, exerting a strong psychological pressure on the big numbers of people. Moreover, these attacks also cause the destruction of material and spiritual values, which are often beyond repair, they sow hatred among nations, promote wars, distrust and hatred between social and ethnic groups, which sometimes cannot be overcome within the life-span of one generation.

The history of global terrorism consists of five main stages. The peculiarities of each of them should be determined, highlighting the features specific to each stage of the development of global terrorism.

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The first stage represents the period of early terrorism. It falls on the period of the rise of terrorism before 1840s, when the foundation for modern terrorism was laid and the first organizations appeared.

The second stage – from the second half of the 19th century to the first two decades of the 20th century – is an era of classic terrorism. It was the time when the main forms and methods of terrorist activities were developed, and the classic patterns of terrorists' strategy and tactics were formed.

The third stage is considered as a transitional one. It lasted from the beginning of 1920s to the end of 1950s, and had two stages. At the first stage, it was possible to trace how terrorism transformed from individual and collective into a permanent factor of political life in many countries. At the second stage, terrorism was temporarily localized in the outlying areas of the world, and the transition to collective forms of terrorist activity was observed. Moreover, during this period, the new counter-terrorism forms and methods appeared.

The fourth stage, titled urban guerrilla, took place in 1960s-1980s. During this period, large organized terrorist groups appeared, while the sophistication of tactics and brutality intensified. The methods of influence on society and states were also distinctive, as well as the cooperation and internationalization of links of terrorists and their illegal organizations. As a result, at this stage, terrorism has become a global factor of international politics.

The fifth stage represents the era of modern terrorism, which is characterized by its large scale and the extreme social danger of terrorist attacks. Thus, gradually, terrorism has become one of the global problems of modern times, while its solution has become a political, economic and geostrategic battle for world domination (Held *et al.*, 2000).

The recent developments throughout the world clearly show that terrorism becomes one of the most important problems of the modern political reality. It determines the nature, content and dynamics of the development of political processes, the participants of which are all of the leading global actors.

Terrorism and other manifestations of extremism, which are formed on different ideological and political platforms, are a daily reality for the EU and Eastern Europe today. It is almost impossible to find a state, government and population, which can consider itself immune to terrorist acts. This means that today, terrorism became a threat to all humanity. Furthermore, murders, hostage-taking, bombings, arson attacks and any other of its manifestations may happen everywhere.

Due to this negative tendency, there is no doubt that the study of the causes of international terrorism, as well as the determination of the ways and methods of its manifestations are an acute and topical issue for Europe and for the whole world.

In our view, international terrorism is a reaction of certain social, confessional and ethnic groups to the globalization processes. Thus, as a result of the contact of civilizations and modernization of traditional societies, for some reasons, these groups feel the infringement of their rights. Having no opportunity to legally struggle for their interests, they resort to terrorism as a strategy of struggle of the weak against the strong. It should be noted that violence is not so important for terrorism as a feeling of horror and helplessness that appears in society after another terrorist attack. And in this context, terrorism may be considered a blackmail aimed at the governments of democratic countries (Ivakin, 2017).

Further, the media, which became widely spread as a result of the information revolution, gave terrorists a great way to influence the societies of the developed countries. After all, exactly the coverage of a terrorist attack in the media really influences the society, as an unknown terrorist act becomes meaningless.

It should be noted that with the development of high technologies, the emergence of new energy sources and means of communication, humanity gradually becomes more vulnerable even to the targeted terrorist attacks. Thus, the destruction or damage of any key facility causes the disastrous consequences for large regions or throughout the planet. This situation makes even the mere threat of a terrorist act more significant. Therefore, it is possible to say today that terrorists are focused on the intimidation of society in order to satisfy their destructive instincts rather than on the elimination of specific facilities (Naumec, 2000).

It seems that the next stage in the development of terrorism will be the provocation of wars, large-scale infringement of the sovereignty of states and the takeover of entire continents. After all, due to the absence of a universally recognized and comprehensive definition of terrorism, the formation of legal principles of cooperation of the states aimed at the struggle against it is focused on those fields, where its manifestations are the most dangerous to the interests of the international community.

## **1. Analysis of the main causes of international terrorism**

There is a quite wide range of grounds for criminological classification of the causes and conditions for the rise of crime, which define the factors characterizing terrorism. They often include legal, social and economic, organizational and management, educational, ideological, psychological, socio-political and other causes and processes.

In our opinion, the key causes of terrorism include poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, lack of affordable housing, inadequate education and training, lack of positive prospects in life, estrangement

and marginalization of population, intensification of social inequalities, upbringing problems, negative consequences of migration, as well as the abundance of information in the media, which causes the rise in violence, inequality and intolerance. This means that terrorism has breeding grounds in those countries where people are poor and where people are pushed to find an enemy.

Modern terrorism is represented in form of massive provocations and is characterized by the transformation of terrorism to an instrument for reorganization of the world. It should be noted that this instrument is used to solve the tasks, which deprive the other countries of the possibility to objectively analyze the situation, as well as the state sovereignty when taking certain important decisions for the country.

So far, it is possible to single out several key prerequisites for the rapid spread of international terrorism. Thus, terrorism is caused by the peculiarities of the information society formation, the impact of the development of technological environment, the 'future shock' along with traditional society blurring, and the real problems of historical development of society, which are characterized by own particularities in political, cultural and social fields (Trunova, 2015).

Any terrorist act requires a national or, better, a global audience. This requirement determines the first prerequisite for terrorism spreading, or the emergence of information society. The modern form of terrorism emerged in Europe in the 19th century, where the society is known for reading newspapers regularly. With the increasing role of the media and their influence on the moods of society, the wave of terrorism begins to grow. Newspapers and magazines are complemented by radio and television, and then, the Internet takes effect, thereby causing the extension of the potential impact of terrorism on society, which, in turn, affects the growth of its capabilities.

However, it should be noted that we should not forget about the importance of technological and political aspects of the impact of some states on terror. The countries with totalitarian regimes, which have the technological aspects of information society at their disposal (for example, Nazi Germany or North Korea), yet blocking the free access to information exchange with the help of police methods, are less vulnerable to terrorism.

The second prerequisite for the expansion of the territory of negative influence of international terrorism is the nature of technology and the laws of development of technological environment of human existence, because in the process of scientific and technological progress, the technology-related environment is characterized by a more complex and vulnerable structure. A natural result of this is the appearance of the possibility of targeted destruction of social, technological and natural environment through technology development. For example, some advanced technology achievements lead to a significant increase in efficiency of arms, when certain devices may be used to launch nuclear missiles from any place to any other place in the world. Moreover, the cost of these

weapons may be affordable for not only the governments, but also any group of people (Shegaev, 2013).

Further, the formation of advanced and liberal-oriented society forms an important prerequisite for international terrorism rise. In this society, it is possible to observe blurring and gradual rejection by refined humanists and hedonists of the ideals inherent in traditional society. It is complemented by a phenomenon that was defined by Alvin Toffler as 'future shock.' He used this term to denote the stress and disorientation experienced by people who face a significant amount of changes in a too short period of time (Toffler, 1997).

With the help of the achievements of the scientific and technological revolution, many developed countries are so ahead in technological and financial terms that it is practically impossible to overtake them. Thus, the gap between the North and the South increases, while three-quarters of humanity continue falling into a kind of Malthusian trap, when people doomed to hunger and malnutrition and affected by the lack of natural resources have to resort to migration processes, internal disturbances and armed conflicts. It happens along with the increasing sense of injustice under the conditions of concealment of the real problems and when the authorities demonstrate no wish to build a constructive dialogue. This situation results in the appearance of the desire to destroy the world by any available means, giving rise to extremism and international terrorism.

It should be noted that liberal values and international treaties provide certain guarantees of human life and the responsibility of the authorities to their citizens. However, terrorist attacks prove that the authorities are not able to guarantee the life, health or peace of its citizens, whether it is the most developed country or a backward and poverty-stricken one. As the result of this situation, the authorities become responsible for it and therefore, they should be replaced. Herein lies the essence of the mechanism of political blackmail, which is often used by terrorists. It should be noted that today, none of the political, economic, military or scientific elites is able to comprehensively, adequately and effectively respond to security threats and risks (Green, 2009).

Another prerequisite that causes international terrorism is the real problems, which arise in the process of historical development and have political, cultural and socioeconomic basis. In our view, this aspect is the central one among the causes of terrorism. Thus, in a country that is more or less successful, it is possible to observe some isolated acts committed by mentally unstable marginals (for example, neo-Nazis in Germany), but the phenomenon of terrorism will be bland. The phenomenon of terrorism refers rather to the crisis stages of the modernization transition. While separatism and national liberation movements become the most frequent reason for it (Eastern Ukraine, Northern Cyprus), or the religious, ethnic and ideological conflicts (the Basques in France and Spain, Albanians, divided between Serbia, Albania and Macedonia).

Thus, in 2014, Ukraine became one of the European countries, which have joined the list of the countries with a high level of terrorist threat.

It was caused by the two most resonant terrorist acts: the arson committed by Ukrainian nationalists in Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, which caused the deaths of the opponents of Kyiv regime, and the aircraft with 298 passengers on board that was shot down over the territory of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic on July 17. Despite the fact that there are enough evidences concerning the arson of House of Trade Unions, in particular the organizers and direct participants of this terrorist act, its unbiased investigation never happened. On the contrary, those, who became victims of Ukrainian ultranationalists, appeared to be the accused. Nevertheless, despite the absence of any evidences of the involvement of Donetsk fighters in the tragedy with the Malaysian Boeing, exactly they were declared guilty of this action. It all indicates the bias and opportunism of the international structures in their assessment of certain terrorist acts, which certainly does not favour the effectiveness of implementation of the counter-terrorism policy.

In addition, today, it is possible to observe a clear link between terrorism and drug trafficking. Transnational criminal groups do not stop their attempts to directly influence the important economic sectors worldwide, creating huge shadow capitals and making attempts to interfere in the activity of state power structures, thus making it possible to guarantee decision-making, which is favorable for them. It should be noted that since the beginning of the 21st century, it is possible to observe the tendency of fusion of individual ethnic criminal groups with ethnic terrorist and extremist organizations. The result of this phenomenon is the distribution of drugs, facilitation of their transportation and sale. It causes the increase in terrorist acts funding along with additional damage to a target state.

Thus, terrorism has become a companion of globalization, while aiming all efforts at its undermining. The feeling of danger and risk gradually becomes universal and constant, especially in European countries, which have experienced terrorist attacks lately (Madrid and London in 2004, Toulouse in 2012, Paris in November 2015, Brussels in March 2016).

Terror becomes one of the most important instruments of anti-globalization process, as it struggles against uniformity. It seems that earlier, one or another act of terrorism was essentially an act of persecution, perhaps an ideological one, and had relatively narrow goals. But today, terror assumes such fundamental task as a struggle against variety.

It is also necessary to note that culturally and stage-homogeneous societies, like Switzerland or the Netherlands, are more protected against international terrorism. Its manifestation is often connected with the boundaries of cultures and epochs of historical development. One of the striking examples is the situation in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, when the Islamic world faces an

outpost of European civilization advanced deeply into Asia, and when the deeply traditional Palestinian society is in contact with a modernized society of Israel (Butrin, 2016).

Thus, summing up the causes of development and spread of international terrorism, it should be noted that terrorism and terrorists need a constant support or sympathy from some parts of society. And the attitude to terrorism directly depends on the consolidation of society around the political goals of terrorists, on the level of liberal and humanistic values accepted in a particular society, as well as on the degree of citizens' sense of justice.

Every politician, researcher and citizen must understand that a real problem – social, cultural or political – always stands behind terrorism. And there is always a segment of society, the most sensitive to this problem, which, perhaps, does not sympathize with the methods of terrorists, but still accepts their declared goals and ideas, thus contributing to the formation of potential cadres for terrorist threats on the domestic scene. Based on this, it is possible to make the conclusion that it will be appropriate to promptly and comprehensively solve acute problems, as it makes it possible to prevent the split in society in time and does not provide terrorist movements with the necessary support base, leading eventually to terrorist activities decline.

### **1.1. Analysis of the statistics of the modern manifestation of terrorism in Europe and the world**

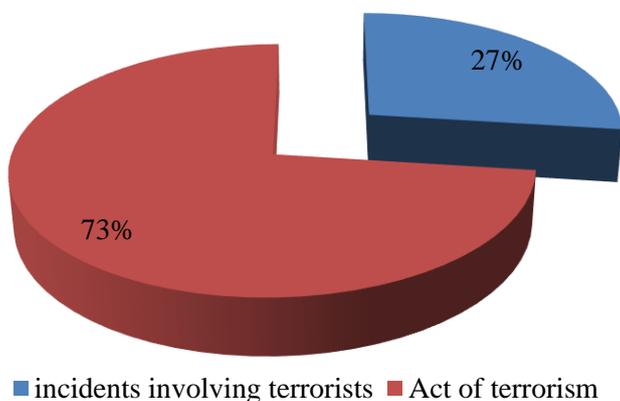
Global Terrorism Index shows that in 2015-2016, it was possible to observe two different tendencies in the development of international terrorism in the world. On the one hand, there was a drastic reduction in the number of victims of terrorist attacks – down to 25,637 persons (22%). On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of countries, where the deaths caused by manifestations of terrorist activity happened during this period. Thus, there were 65 countries in 2015, and 77 in 2016. It should be noted that it is the highest figure over the past 17 years (Centre for Humanitarian Technologies, 2018).

The situation in the European Union may seem better. Europol data show that the number of terrorist attacks dropped by 62% from 2014 to 2016. Thus, in the last two years, the attacks were documented in eight EU states, while more than half of them were committed in the UK. According to the same data, it is possible to note that 142 people were killed and 379 were injured as the result of terrorist activities in 2016. It is also possible to observe the increase in the number of arrests of persons suspected of terrorist activities – 1,002 persons.

However, in 2017, the terrorism-related situation in the EU states remained quite uneasy. The most problematic sites were still in the UK cities. The following picture demonstrates that there were

1,787 incidents involving terrorists, including 1,310 terrorist acts and 477 incidents involving terrorists (see Figure 1).

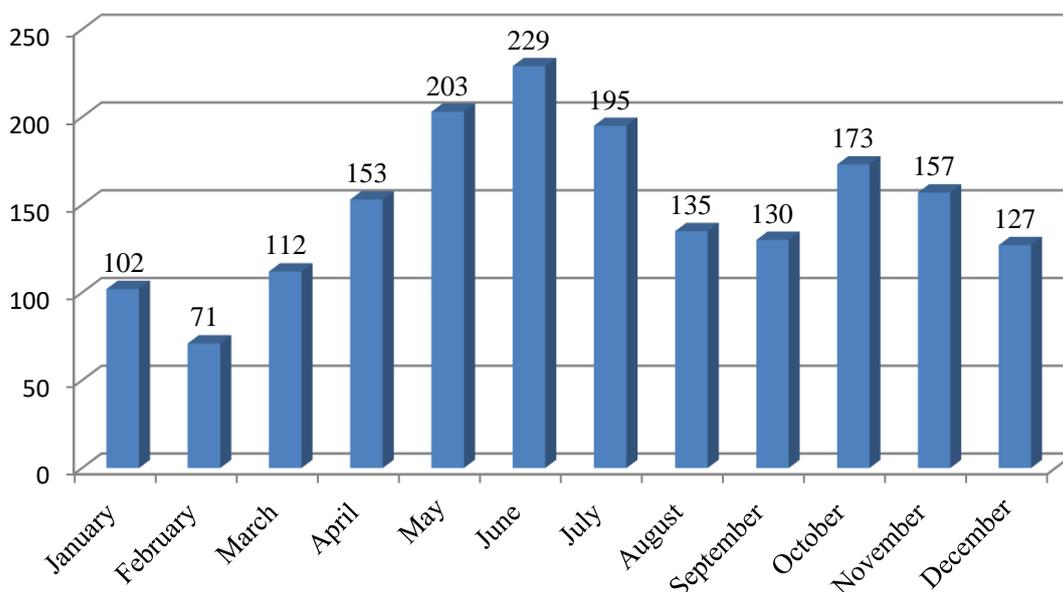
**Figure 1. Incidents involving terrorists**



Source: Centre for Humanitarian Technologies (2018)

The following data demonstrate the number of incidents involving terrorists by months in 2017 (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2. The number of incidents involving terrorists by months in 2017**



Centre for Humanitarian Technologies (2018)

Thus, according to the graph, the biggest number of terrorist incidents occurred in June (229 incidents) and in May (203 incidents).

The most resonant terrorist attacks in Europe and worldwide, which happened in 2017, are as follows:

- on the night of January 1, the attack on the nightclub Reina took place in the Turkish city of Istanbul. A terrorist armed with a gun killed a police officer, who was guarding the club, and then rushed into the premises, where there were more than 700 people, and opened fire on them. According to the Ministry of the Interior of Turkey, 39 persons were killed, 69 persons were injured;

- on February 3, a terrorist from Egypt attacked a serviceman in Paris near the Louvre using a machete. The attacker was detained, and there were no victims;

- on March 22, a terrorist attack happened on the Westminster Bridge in London. A Briton Khalid Masood drove his car into pedestrians on the pavement and knocked nearly 50 persons down, 4 persons died. After that, he stabbed a police officer, who was guarding the British Parliament. Thus, as the result of the attack, 5 persons died and 49 persons were injured. The terrorist was killed by police;

- on April 7, after the negative decision of Swedish authorities on refugee status, a citizen of Uzbekistan Rakhmat Akilov hijacked a lorry and drove it into the crowd on the main street of Stockholm. As a result, 14 persons were injured and 5 persons died;

- on April 9, there were two explosions in the churches of Egypt with a difference of several hours. The explosion in the main church of the Egyptian city of Tanta occurred in the morning, 28 persons died and nearly 80 persons were injured. The attack was committed by a suicide bomber who entered the church during the service. Later, the second suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to the church in the city of Alexandria, where the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church Tawadros II stayed at that time. 17 persons were killed as the result of the attack, including four police officers, who stopped the bomber and did not let him enter the church, thus avoiding a greater number of victims;

- on April 20, a French national Karim Cheurfi killed a police officer on the Champs Elysees in Paris using an assault rifle and injured two police officers and a German tourist. He was shot dead by police;

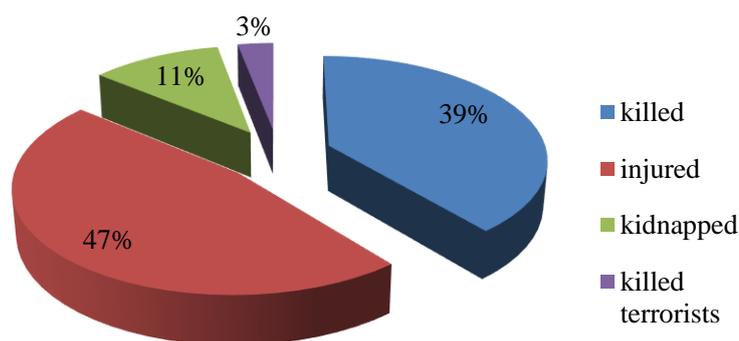
- on May 22, a suicide bomber Salman Ramadan Abedi carried out the suicide bomb attack at Manchester Arena in Manchester. Nearly 500 people were injured and 23 were killed;

- on June 3, a van was driven into pedestrians on the pavement in London. Three persons ran out of the van and attacked the visitors to restaurants and cafes with knives. As a result, 8 persons were killed and 48 persons were injured;

- on August 17, Younes Abouyaaqoub drove into pedestrians in the center of Barcelona. 16 persons were killed and 151 persons were injured. The terrorist escaped from the crime scene, but was shot dead by police during a search operation (The Telegraph 2017).

The following picture makes it possible to analyze the number of victims of terrorist acts in 2017 (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3. The number of victims of terrorist acts in 2017**



Source: The Telegraph (2017)

According to the diagram, 13,759 persons were killed, 16,683 persons suffered from injuries of differing levels of severity, 4,034 persons were kidnapped as a result of certain terrorist incidents, and only 1,044 persons, which is 3% of the victims of terrorist acts, are the killed terrorists.

The indicated terrorist attacks committed in 2017 indicate that they are not just some kinds of excesses of peaceful life, but rather an undeclared war, when the enemy is very dangerous, insidious and secretive. The situation is also complicated by the fact that terrorists can adapt to the existing counter-terrorism capabilities of the EU countries, resorting to new tactics of preparation and conduct of terrorist acts.

There are several explanations for this. First, the present-day terrorists are generally not the formal members of some radical organizations. They are just united by a common idea, which is presented as a victory of the true Islam. It should be noted that the Islamic State does not always take responsibility for one or another act of terrorism, as it finds out about what happened from the media, and therefore it needs time to study the details and possible risks. Nevertheless, in fact, all terrorist acts, which are committed by Islamists today directly or indirectly, are usually associated with the Islamic State, as it once happened with Al-Qaeda (Modzhoryan, 2008).

As a result, even the law enforcement agencies of some countries that opposed the far-left (the Red Army Faction in Germany, the Red Brigades in Italy, the Action Directe in France), or the

separatist organizations (the Basque Homeland and Liberty in Spain, the Provisional Irish Republican Army in the UK) are not able to effectively use their accumulated experience due to the absence of a unified terrorist organization among the Islamists. Without it, it is difficult to obtain the necessary information about its activities, to define the leaders and to arrest its members.

This method was very successful with terrorist organizations, as after the mass arrests of the leaders, common members were not able to independently continue their struggle. This in turn led to the dissolution and termination of its existence.

Second, a model terrorist attack in Europe today mainly uses an individual or a small group of executors, or suicide bombers. Both immigrants and their descendants in the second or third generation, who were subject to radicalization in mosques, Islamic centers, or via the Internet, may be involved in these attacks. These terrorists focus on common people, as it is much easier to commit an act of terrorism against them than to attack some strategic infrastructure facilities. In addition, the attacks on common people cause a strong response in the media. It should be noted that almost no one knows about the plans of these executors, who act alone. And therefore, it is almost impossible to search and detect them.

Third, the majority of terrorist attacks were committed in Europe without the use of firearms in order not to be noticed by the law-enforcement agencies or criminal organizations. Instead, terrorists preferred to use transport or homemade explosive devices (The Independent, 2016).

In connection with all these problems, it could be assumed that the law-enforcement authorities of the countries of Western and Eastern Europe faced the challenge of revealing Islamists, preventing terrorist attacks and countering the radicalization of society, which is a rather complicated process. It should be noted that the problem is that the EU countries in most cases only respond to the committed terrorist acts with the purpose of preventing them in the future.

Thus, it is possible to make the conclusion that the ill-thought-out migration policy, the difficulties in overcoming social polarization, and the weakness of law-enforcement agencies towards the known Islamists, as well as the lack of coordination between the EU member states lead to the rise of Islamist terrorism in Europe. Therefore, it seems that today, the European Union should analyze the existing counter-terrorism architecture and identify errors, which hamper the comprehensive protection of their citizens from this threat. Particular attention, in our view, should be paid to the international and inter-agency cooperation, to the exchange of live data between different agencies and states, to the effective border control and to the suppression of radicalization of society, especially among young people.

However, even with successful solutions to the problems in these areas, only the manifestations of terrorism will be suppressed, while the prime cause, which consists in the present-day injustice of

the world order, will not be revealed. As for the EU countries, it seems that they are not ready to deal with this issue today, preferring to strongly defend their borders. This strategy is, in fact, losing and wrong.

Terrorist attacks in Paris, Istanbul, Tunisia and the United Kingdom, as well as the other terrorist acts of the recent years show that the target object is still the prerogative of terrorists, while for the rest, this choice is always sudden. That is why it is difficult to reveal terrorism, while today, the civilization itself contributes to the quality and quantity of violent means, which can be used by radical organizations or individual terrorists.

## **1.2. International counter-terrorism system**

Social development causes the transformation of terrorist attacks and the constant emergence of new factors. However, meanwhile, the international community establishes new organizations aimed at the struggle against international terrorism.

Thus, the international counter-terrorism system has been already established, and it provides for the bilateral cooperation at the global and regional level.

First of all, the matter is in the United Nations (UN), which deals with the release of important counter-terrorism documents and the establishment of anti-terrorist centers.

As of today, the United Nations is considered a single universal mechanism to support international peace and global security through the collective regulation of international relations and sustainable development and stability.

There are basic documents aimed at the struggle against international terrorism, including the following:

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, dated December 14, 1973;
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, dated December 17, 1979;
- International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, dated December 4, 1989;
- Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, dated December 9, 1994;
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, dated December 15, 1997 (Zonov, 2011).

In addition, today, the other actions aimed at the struggle against international terrorism are taken by the international community. First of all, the matter is in 12 international treaties aimed at

the struggle against terrorism. Moreover, the range of resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council are binding on all UN member states. In addition, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee was established, which also aims to struggle against international terrorism.

It should be noted that there are several concepts of the struggle against international terrorism:

- the violent confrontation in the context of the struggle for existence, as the result of which the death of social groups or systems, which are adapted to the existing life conditions the least, is observed, while the most adapted ones survive (a kind of evolutionary processes);
- the struggle as a destruction of an enemy in the process of military or anti-terrorist operations;
- the preventive measures aimed at making the full-fledged terrorist activities impossible through the information war.

It is possible to assume that there is another method – the so-called humane war on terrorism, when the neutralization of terrorism is achieved by the prevention of terrorist factors, with the help of agreements and implementation of mutual concessions.

Important is the fact that the first two mentioned strategies have lost their positions in the practice of struggle against international terrorism, because they were not sufficiently effective and humane. It seems that the promising counter-terrorism strategies may include only the ones with no signs of physical abuse, the ones with the focus on a reasonable compromise that would take into account the interests of all parties. Compliance with these arrangements will make it possible for the society to find the best algorithm of social management, and therefore, there will be no breeding ground for terrorism.

It should be noted that the struggle against terrorism should be considered as a controlled and conscious process, which results in the thought-out and developed action strategies. After all, counter-terrorism strategy positioning intensifies the importance of planning of special events aimed at combating and preventing terrorism. This means that analytics is important in the process of development of specific strategies. There should be no just simple selection of components out of the existing arsenal of available tools (Yakovenko, 2013).

However, despite the efforts of international organizations, as well as the international community as a whole, international terrorism continues to increase its scale, spreading across the planet. It becomes apparent that today, none of the states is able to guarantee the prevention of terrorist attack threats and safe life to its citizens. In addition, politicians and experts discuss more and more frequently the possible terms for terrorists to obtain access to dual-use technologies.

Thus, it should be remembered that terrorism is only a method or tactics, but not a political program or ideology. It is definitely possible and necessary to destroy terrorists. It is necessary to take measures to prevent terrorist attacks. However, it should be remembered that the efforts of one great

power or even a group of highly developed countries are insufficient to struggle against international terrorism. International terrorism as a global problem of the modern world may be overcome only by collective and well-coordinated efforts of the majority of states and nations worldwide (Bekyashev and Avyasov, 2015).

Furthermore, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that the existing counter-terrorism strategies focus on terrorism as an accomplished fact, while insufficient attention is paid to the technologies of prior neutralization of social conflicts, which are the deep social causes of terrorism. Definitely promising are the social and information counter-terrorism technologies. Their essence is reduced to elemental – it is easier to remove the preconditions of terrorist activities through the conformal reform and timely correction of social control algorithm than to neutralize the social conflict that may cost the authorities stability, while people may lose peace and security.

## **2. Counter-terrorism forms and methods**

Any terrorist organization, despite its ideology or abilities, has its weak spots. Among them are the common ones, which may be found in all similar organizations. That is why the attention aimed at the search and identification of these weak spots will act as an effective method of struggle against international terrorism:

1. The activity of terrorists. The point is that terrorists are rarely able to act independently. This means that they are constantly in contact with fellow-fighters and like-minded persons. Therefore, the monitoring of these contacts with the help of special equipment makes it possible to define their action schemes, to find out the plans of terrorists, to detect and neutralize them.

It is important to monitor all movements and actions of the members of terrorist groups. Close attention to the collection and analysis of the information on terrorists makes it possible to achieve a significant effect in the struggle against them. For example, German authorities managed to neutralize the Baader-Meinhof Group (Red Army Faction) with the help of a computer database developed to collect and analyze the facts that are relevant to the terrorists.

2. The ability to arrest or kill the leaders of terrorist groups. It is well known that the leaders of terrorist groups have a significant influence on the activities of their organizations. It is possible to reduce their role in case when the terrorists are guided by other goals, for example, some worldview, or when they are backed by one or another special service of the other state. But more frequently, the activities of terrorist organizations directly rely on the actions of their leaders.

Any act of terrorism requires planning and careful preparation. Therefore, the capture and annihilation of a leader favours the destruction of terrorists' plans. Many terrorist attacks were

prevented with the help of this tactics. For example, the arrest of the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, Abdullah Öcalan, which led to the complete elimination of this structure. This means that by eliminating the leader of a terrorist structure, it is possible to reduce its controllability and effectiveness or even to completely destroy it (Sychev, 2004).

3. The power struggle within terrorist groups. It is often possible to observe the manifestation of competition between these groups fighting for fame, influence or money. For example, in Iraq, terrorist group mainly fight against each other rather than against the authorities. This hostility is usually characterized by permanence. Thus, competition may cause weakening and destruction of many groups. For example, the reduction of the activity of Colombian FARC and the Philippines' New People's Army.

All this indicates that planning an anti-terrorist operation, it is necessary to focus on the identification of these conflicts, which can be used for the operation's success.

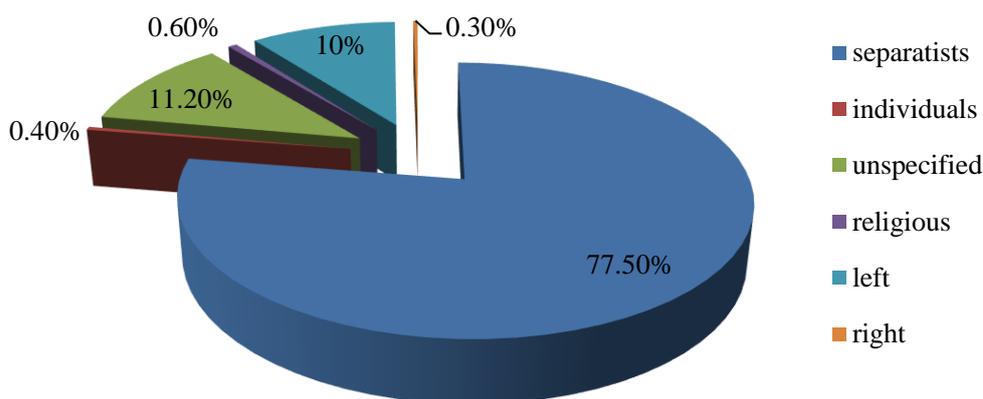
4. Terrorist organizations consist of people, which can be annihilated or returned to normal activities by means of persuasion and demonstrations of goodwill. An important method of combating and preventing terrorism are the government measures aimed at winning the minds of the members of terrorist groups, convincing them that it is senseless to continue the struggle. Among these measures, it is possible to single out the eradication of corruption in government agencies, the improvement of the life of population living in areas, where terrorists find support, the undermining of the financial base and food economy of terrorists, the inclination of their leaders to renounce the armed struggle, the provision of amnesties to the members of terrorist groups.

5. All states, even those that compete in the international arena, should combine their efforts in the struggle against terrorism. Committing their attacks around the world, terrorists make different countries their enemies. And the understanding of the importance of joint struggle against them becomes a stronger motivation for consolidation than the existing controversy between the countries.

6. Some states support terrorists. In this regard, it is important to keep them away from this support by military force. In addition, to suppress this support, the international community should impose economic and political sanctions (Kuznecov and Marshakova, 2016).

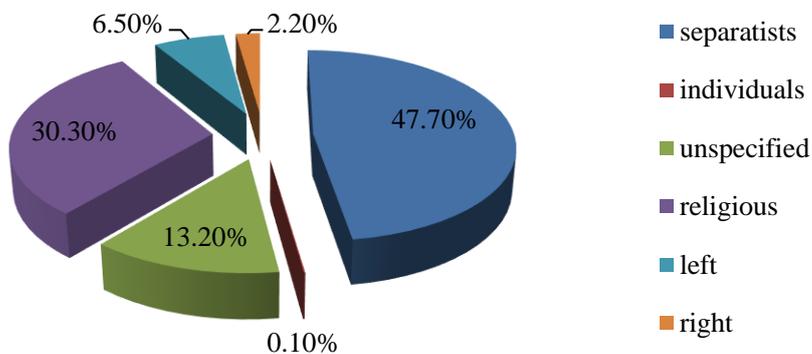
Based on the Europol's reports on terrorism for 2014-2017, it is possible to analyze the effectiveness of the methods used to struggle against terrorism and terrorists. For this purpose, it is possible to compare the number of terrorist acts in Europe and the number of people arrested for terrorist crimes during this period (see Figure 4 and Figure 5).

**Figure 4. The number of terrorist acts in Europe**



Source: Centre for Humanitarian Technologies (2018)

**Figure 5. The number of people arrested for terrorist crimes**



Source: Centre for Humanitarian Technologies (2018)

Thus, it is obvious that the biggest number of terrorist attacks was committed by separatists, but their activity reduces gradually. They are followed by left radicals, while the number of terrorist acts committed by them has also decreased in the recent years. Against this background, it is possible to see that the number of unspecified terrorist acts, the so-called unmotivated violence, has increased. As for religious terrorists, right-wing radicals and individual attackers, they have committed relatively fewer terrorist attacks. It can also be noted that leftists and separatists often carry out symbolic terrorist acts, which do not cause human losses.

Analyzing the data on the number of people arrested for terrorist crimes, we see a slightly different situation. Right-wing radicals and individual attackers are also relatively not numerous, but the number of arrested religious terrorists is considerable. Moreover, it is higher than the number of terrorist acts they have committed. This may show that religious terrorists are ill-prepared, and they are often arrested at the stage of crime planning, for example, when trying to assemble an explosive device or buy weapons.

Based on the indicated methods of struggle against terrorist organizations, it is possible to formulate the basic principles of counter-terrorist activities. Thus, an important principle is the destruction of a network of terrorist cells. Terrorists always have a strict hierarchy of leaders. Therefore, the annihilation or arrest of the leaders would be a destructive power for them. However, it is important to understand that the annihilation of one leader can influence only a single cell, but does not destroy the entire network of terrorist organizations.

In addition, the leaders of these structures often use propaganda method, but do not take part in the implementation or organization of a terrorist act. It is also important that the network structures will be the most stable and can be restored even after powerful campaigns against them. Nevertheless, it is always possible to find a weak spot, such as, focusing on professionals in different fields, which can be experts in explosives, weapon masters, without which it is impossible to conduct serious attacks. IT professionals or people involved in informational and psychological war may also be among these experts.

Political transformation will also be an important principle. Thus, global practice has the examples, when it was possible to stop the activities of terrorists by directing their efforts in the field of political struggle. For example, the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasser Arafat, which initiated peace talks with Israel in 1990s. As a result, the members of the organization joined the structure of the Palestinian Authority. All this indicates that the success of terrorists directly depends on certain political conditions. When these conditions disappear, the terrorist organizations are losing their power, and often begin to struggle against each other (Dershovic, 2015).

Another principle consists in depriving terrorists of their basis in form of public support. The long-term existence of a terrorist group is possible only with the support of the population or its part. This makes it possible to recruit new fighters, receive the necessary resources and hide successfully. However, this assistance may be lost. For this purpose, it is important to work with local residents at the state level. For example, to create new jobs, to eliminate discrimination of national or religious minorities, and so on.

An important principle of the struggle against terrorism is, in our opinion, in the conduct of military operations and repressions. Many cases of annihilation of terrorists are related to the assistance from troops, although it is mainly the concern of special services. However, experience has proven that these operations inevitably cause civilian casualties, deprive the authorities of the support of local population, and cause economic collapse in this territory, therefore creating favorable conditions for the further actions of terrorists. Yet during the large-scale military operations, army units should be used in order to change the situation fundamentally.

It should be noted that modern information technologies may be the most advanced principle of the struggle today. Terrorists actively use information technologies to coordinate their actions and spread propaganda. Cellular communications, e-mail and other software for Internet communication caused the appearance of cyberterrorism. In this regard, it is important to monitor and suppress the use of information technologies by terrorists (Netan'yahu, 2002).

While terrorism was, as a rule, the domain of illegal structures before, which were trying to declare about their desire to participate in political processes in one or another state, by the middle of the second decade of the 21st century, terrorism has gained such a powerful potential that it considered it possible to emerge from the underground, figuratively speaking, and to challenge the world community and its leading countries, to declare about its claims to the reorganization of the world.

Not only the countries with unstable domestic political situation are subject to this threat, but also the leading countries of the world community with a well-functioning internal security system: Russia, the USA, France, the UK, China and others.

Moreover, the incidents, which happened in 2017, indicate that terrorism gradually becomes a daily reality. This in turn makes the collective public consciousness to perceive this phenomenon as quite ordinary one.

All of the above-mentioned tendencies, as well as the dynamics of terrorist acts show that terrorism in 2014 - 2017 acquired a qualitatively new essence and now differs from its earlier analogues fundamentally. The main conclusion to be made in the process of analysis of the present-day tendencies in terrorism is that international terrorism has transformed into a global problem of the modern global political processes, and in many respects defines the prospects of the further evolution of human civilization (Butrin, 2016).

## **Conclusions**

In order to prevent terrorism at the present stage it is necessary to develop and introduce the most important courses of the struggle. In our opinion, it is possible the struggle against international terrorism, however, it is important to observe the following aspects for this purpose.

It is necessary to finally overcome the legacy of the Cold War between the US and Western Europe on the one part and Russia, China and Iran on the other part. This will make it possible to ease international tension and to create a high degree of mutual trust and genuine interest in the security level improvement to struggle against terrorists.

It is important to direct all of the remaining regional and internal conflicts across the world to the negotiation stage, and, if necessary, to carry out peace operations under the auspices of the United Nations (Syria, Somalia, etc.).

The refusal of the “double standards” policy is also a serious issue. It often happens that in one country, an organization is treated as a terrorist one, while the other country provides its members with the freedom of movement, the access to housing and employment. To avoid this situation, it is necessary to make a single list of terrorist organizations, which will be adopted by the UN Security Council in accordance with the international law. It seems obvious that terrorists should not have shelter countries, which they can use as the territories uncontrolled by the world community to carry out their illegal activities.

It is also important to continue improving the international legal framework under the auspices of the UN, defining the measures of prosecution and bringing terrorists, pirates, agents and their sponsors in any country of the world to criminal liability.

In order to overcome any possible terrorist attacks, it is also necessary to solve social and economic problems in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. By reducing unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, hunger and diseases, which are a breeding ground for the development of international terrorism, it is possible to achieve a significant weakening of the “recruiting” base for the leaders of terrorist groups.

A strong measure of struggle against international terrorism will be its organization on a global scale. Thus, in our opinion, it is necessary to provide funding of the preventive and active measures in this field, including at the expense of means saved on the reductions of armed forces and weapons and military equipment of the leading world powers.

Finally, it is possible to achieve the effectiveness of the struggle against international terrorism by making this struggle more systematic. For this purpose, it is necessary to skillfully combine political, economic, social, legal, educational and organizational measures, which will include operational investigations, special, military and other activities.

Thus, the current conditions of the global problem of international terrorism should not be regarded only as an independent phenomenon. The situation is that terrorism becomes an important part of the broader military and political global system, which is associated with the fundamental issues of war and peace. Their solution influences the further existence of civilization on the planet. Therefore, in order to prevent the growth of extremism in the society and the emergence of new terrorist attacks, it is important to implement the targeted programs aimed at the solution of the most critical social and economic issues in problem regions, to toughen anti-terrorist legislation, to carry

out special counter-terrorist operations, and to seek the organization of close international cooperation in this area on multilateral and bilateral grounds.

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