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# GLOBAL TERRORISM: IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AND COMBATING TERRORISM; ACTORS AND RELATED CHALLENGES

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## ABSTRACT

Terrorism and terrorist activities constitutes a major international security concern that bedevils both the developed as well as the developing countries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Since the 1789 French revolution when the word terrorism was first used in reference to the exercise of punitive and deterrent public violence by the state, current usage tends to associate terrorism mainly, although not exclusively, with acts of non-state actors only. Global interconnectedness has complicated state(s) and international organization's effort to address this menace. Although there have been several actors within and outside the state making effort to address terrorism, there have been numerous challenges attributed to the growing violent extremism and radicalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This review paper relies on the existing secondary data from various parts of the world in providing a conceptual explanation of globalization and how it relates to the complexities in addressing terrorism. The core argument is that owing to globalization, there have been changing dynamics in relation to the size and the network of terror group(s); from state to international groups, scope of operations as well as the actors involved in terrorist activities. This paper particularly observed that the emerging dynamics have complicated efforts by various actors such as the civil society groups, learning institutions, the media as well as the government agencies in addressing terrorism. It was further noted that the emerging challenges in addressing this menace included increasing radicalization and extremism, implications of anti-terrorist measures on civil liberties, multi-faceted sources of finance and sponsorship to terrorist groups and deficiencies in intelligence gathering to counter their activities. This review paper therefore, recommends on intergovernmental agencies intelligence gathering and sharing on terrorist related activities, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism and a proactive approaches in identifying and addressing heterogeneous community needs to avoid marginalization.

**Keywords:** Terrorism, Radicalization, Extremism, Actors and Globalization

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The term "terrorisme" came into existence in 1798 during the French revolution to refer to a policy of more or less arbitrary victimization of alleged and real political opponents, and the understanding of what constitutes "terrorism" has been changing. While the term initially referred to the exercise of punitive and deterrent public violence by the state, current usage tends to associate terrorism mainly, although not exclusively and sometimes erroneously, with acts of non-state actors only (Jenkins, 1974 and Smith, 2012). Terrorism has been defined by the European Union's Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism of 2002 as "an intentional act which may seriously damage a country or an international organization, committed with the aim of seriously intimidating a population, unduly compelling a Government or an international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act, seriously destabilizing or destroying fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures by means of attacks upon a person's

life, attacks upon the physical integrity of a person, kidnapping, hostage-taking, seizure of aircraft or ships, or the manufacture, possession or transport of weapons or explosives” (UNESCO, 2017).

According to Mukarramah, (2001), terrorism is an outrageous attack carried out either by individuals, groups or states against the human being (his religion, life, intellect, property and honor). It includes all forms of intimidation, harm, threatening, killing without a just cause so as to terrify and horrify people by hurting them or by exposing their lives, liberty, security or conditions to danger, or exposing a national or natural resource to danger” (UNESCO, 2017). Terrorism therefore, is the premeditated use or threat to use violence by individuals or sub-national groups against noncombatants in order to obtain a political or social objective through intimidation of a large audience beyond that of the immediate victims.

Various definitions emphasize features of terrorism such as its symbolic character, its indiscriminate nature, its typical focus on civilian and non-combatant targets, its provocative and retributive nature, the disruption of public order and endangering of public security, the creation of a climate of fear to influence an audience as well as its disregard of the rules of war and the rules of punishment (Crenshaw, 2000). Some key elements of many definitions also refer to the fact that terrorism is usually an instrument through which its perpetrators, lacking mass support, attempt to realize a political or religious objective. It also generally involves a series of punctuated acts of demonstrative public violence, followed by threats of continuation in order to impress, intimidate and/or coerce target audiences (Schanzer, et. al.2016). While there are grey zones and borderline cases of what is and what is not acceptable in certain political contexts, there are certain forms of peacetime political violence and wartime activities which are widely seen as totally unacceptable (Global Research, 2015). These include unprovoked attacks on civilians and the taking of hostages and other forms of willful killings (Jenkins, 1974). Terrorism is considered extra-normal because the violence is usually one-sided, the victims cannot save their lives through surrender and unarmed civilians are often terrorism’s main targets. Some of the messages terrorist organizations aim to send through their attacks include: posing uncertainty, depicting a state of vulnerability and helplessness, disproportional price, and vengeance (Friedland, 1992).

Indeed, modern terrorism is not necessarily about the numbers. In fact, most modern terrorist attacks, while violent in nature, generally produce limited damage or casualties. Instead, they rely on psychological warfare as a tool in achieving their goals, creating fear and anxiety among the general population (Chaliand, et.al, 2007). In many cases, a terrorist attack is random, aimed not at someone specific, but rather a group that shares a common trait and symbolizes the organization’s broader target (Americans, Israelis, “infidels,” Westerners, etc.) (Napoleoni, 2003). By simultaneously transmitting several messages, these attacks intensify the sense of anxiety felt by the target group, which leads civilians to pressure decision makers and their government into changing policies and agreeing to terrorists’ demands (Jenkins, 1974).

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This review paper relies on already existing secondary data from various journals, government documents, theses and books in interrogating the various issues related to global terrorism. It provides a review on understanding global terrorism, nexus between globalization and global terrorism as well as actors and their roles in addressing violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism. In addition, this review paper also explores the various challenges facing anti-terrorism measures in contemporary society.

## 3. GLOBALIZATION AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

According to Kay (2004), globalization can be defined as "creating a set of cross-border interaction mechanisms that have an impact on a country's economic and political development". In this case therefore, decisions taken within a country have an impact on the lives of many citizens around the world. Zimmermann (2011) defines globalization as "exchanging ideas, goods, and people" (Ougaard and Higgott, 2002). Smith, (2012) also opined that globalization is related to the spread of technology and culture. Globalization is a very complex process and involves "expanding, deepening and accelerating international connectivity".

As noted earlier, terrorism involves damage to the financial incomes of different persons, disturbance of public tranquility, and physical damage to a particular person, etc (Jenkins, 1974). The primary objective of a terrorist group is not always a person, but they aim to attack more large groups, profitable organizations, causing them huge financial damage. The overall effect of terrorism is to reduce the overall capital of a society (Rabasa, et.al, 2006). Terrorism is now a global problem with which people today have to face. The Western countries such as USA, Britain, and France have tried to take a number of measures trying to fight this phenomenon however; globalization has complicated the fight against terrorism due to different factors as discussed in subsequent sections (Roy, 2004).

### 3.1 Nexus Between Globalization and Global Terrorism

Cronin (2003) posited that the spread of recent terrorist activities both within the state and outside the borders comes not only as a result of globalization but also with its help. Cronin (2003) argues that globalization includes a number of penetrating mechanisms that have been exploited by terrorist networks. First, the internet has been identified as a useful tool to promote various terror-based ideas. Since the internet is a fully anonymous forum, it provides users with its use for establishing communication networks and consequently increasing the number of attacks (Goodman, et.al 2007). For this reason, it is thought that terrorism,

especially the international one, is facilitated by the use of the internet that is part of today's globalization. What is worth mentioning is that although terrorism has long existed, access to the Internet has simply contributed to its spread to various parts of the world. Internet has provided a platform for recruitment of new members to the terror network, dissemination of radical ideologies as well as easy coordination with the leaders of various terror groups (Sageman, 2004).

Secondly, Zimmermann (2011) argues that the ease of transport and electronic transfer of money has facilitated easy movement, easy procurement of weapons, and payment of those who execute the terror attacks globally. Information technologies have enabled terrorist groups to reach a peak of their malevolent activities. By using these technologies, they can now easily coordinate the attacks they plan, deceive people through internet propaganda, recruit new members and make them part of their attacks and activities even without physical interaction with terror group leaders (Heine and Thakur, 2011). Terrorist organizations are already using technology to promote the causes they advocate that have essentially violence and terror. The use of technology has given individuals / groups access to the outside world (Goodman, et.al 2007). Thirdly, increasing socio-economic inequality across the globe and increasing gap between the poor and the rich is caused by globalization and promotes terrorism. This is emphasized by Nassar (2005) who noted that the number of people with economic difficulties globally has increased. Zimmermann (2011) adds that globalization often exacerbates the degree of economic and social inequality and polarization within certain countries. Poor economic conditions create frustrations, which increases the potential for violence and individuals joining terror groups for economic gains (Abuza, 2003). On the other hand, when we compare wealth and poverty globally, economic success can equally attract terrorism (Chaliand, et.al, 2007). All areas that have been considered or treated as irrelevant by globalization have been easily affected by terrorism. Because these areas are considered weak and extremely vulnerable to extremist dogma, they are easier target by terrorist groups (Zimmermann, 2011).

Fourthly, globalization is often associated with the western culture. Enabling one country's culture to be implemented in other countries can make some individuals who do not share the same thoughts or traditions with this culture to oppose it (Lia, 2005). Globalization is often regarded as a force that harms the habits, languages, and religions of the respective countries. As a reason to fight against globalization which they think will destroy their traditions and cultures, they choose to do it forcefully and consequently become part of the various terrorist organizations (Jenkins, 1974). Various individuals and groups choose to fight against those who consider globalization as normal and good since they are considered as violators of traditional values, norms and culture (Schmidt, et.al 2005). Leaders of terrorist organizations often makes reference to globalization and the West, blaming the latter as the one that is pushing globalization around the world and destroying the cultures and traditions they have had since the beginning of civilization (Slotman, et.al, 2006). For these reasons, terrorist groups feel they have to fight the West and the modernization that it tends to bring anywhere in the world.

#### 4. **COMBATING TERRORISM: ACTORS AND STRATEGIES**

Emergence of terrorist activities always stems from violent extremism, and radicalization leading to terrorism. Violent extremism refers to acts of violence that are justified by, or associated with, an extreme religious, social or political ideology (Schanzer, et. al.2016). Radicalization refers to the process by which an individual increasingly espouses or supports extremist ideas. Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism thus refers to a spectrum of policies, programmes and interventions aimed at preventing and countering extremism related to terrorist radicalization (Tilly, 2003).

##### 4.1 **Actors in Combating Terrorism**

There are various actors within and outside the state that can play a primary role in addressing violent extremism and radicalization which always lead to terrorism. These actors are;

###### 4.1.1 **Civil society organizations and their roles**

Civil society is a diverse body of civil actors, communities, and formal or informal associations with a wide range of roles, who engage in public life seeking to advance shared values and objectives (Cortright, et al., 2011). Civil society actors typically include: community leaders and groups; grassroots associations; religious leaders and faith-based organizations; online groups and social media communities; international, local and grassroots Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO); labour unions and professional associations; charitable and philanthropic foundations; and recreational community groups (Centre for Civil Society, 2006). Civil societies efforts are often locally rooted, have access, legitimacy and influence, and are driven by genuine concern for their communities' wellbeing and safety. This makes them dependable allies who are willing to be innovative, versatile and more prepared to take risks in order to address their communities' security concerns. Civil society often has extensive knowledge of the local dynamics, trends and drivers of violent extremism, and present the best "early warning" mechanisms for emerging threats. This positions them to provide timely interventions and context-specific responses (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013).

Approaches that can be adopted by Civil Society Organization can include prevention, intervention and rehabilitation programmes. Prevention programmes which seek to reduce the appeal of violent extremism and build resilience to its influence and spread. The types of programmes that may fall under this category are, inter alia: awareness raising on the threat of violent extremism in schools; public information campaigns; community debates; interfaith and intra-faith dialogues; capacity building for teachers and

community leaders to support vulnerable youth; media messaging and alternative/counter-narrative campaigns; and community trust building with law enforcement (Schanzer, et. al.2016). Intervention programmes targets “at-risk” audiences and seek to intervene in a person’s pathway to terrorist radicalization before the line of criminal activity is crossed, or acts of violence committed. The types of programmes are sometimes referred to as “off ramps” or “exit programmes” (Schmidt, et.al 2005). The programmes are voluntary and include: referral mechanisms, psychosocial support, mentoring, theological/doctrinal debate, education and employment training and support, etc. Rehabilitation programmes targets individuals already radicalized to violence and possibly their families at different stages of radicalization. The types of programmes include both prison-based de-radicalization/disengagement and post-criminal aftercare programmes focusing on the rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorist offenders and returning foreign fighters, and their reentry into society. Some programmes offer educational and vocational training, counselling, employment opportunities and ideological re-education, etc (Cortright et al., 2011).

#### **4.1.2 Learning institutions**

Learning institutions are particularly prone to being affected by the influence of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism because they are hubs of social interaction where young people congregate in the building of personal and social identities (UNESCO,2017). Educators, as first-line practitioners and leaders, are key to preventing violent extremism, not only because of their ability to impart knowledge by which they can influence the students’ worldview and system of values, but also because they may be able to identify those who are vulnerable to influence and need support. Training of teachers/tutors/lecturers to understand the risks of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism and approach the situation in a measured and constructive way is a critical investment (Slootman, et.al, 2006). They can also support anti-terrorist efforts by developing curricula and textbooks that foster respect for diversity and promote non-violent social norms. Educators may also play a valuable role in rehabilitation and reintegration efforts by providing technical vocational training and programmes to enhance cognitive skills to violent, extremist offenders to prepare them for re-entry in society (Schanzer, et. al.2016).

#### **4.1.3 Law enforcement agencies/community police services**

Police services are responsible for maintaining public order and safety (Schmidt, et.al 2005). The practice of community policing puts emphasis on “partnership-based, collaborative efforts between the police and the community to more effectively and efficiently identify, prevent and solve problems of crime, the fear of crime, issues of physical safety and security, social disorder and neighbourhood decay in order to improve the quality of life for everyone” (OSCE TNTD and ODIHR, 2014). In the violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism context, the premise is that close, trust-based co-operation between law enforcement and the communities they serve will result in reduced tensions and discontent, and an improved ability to intervene earlier in the cycle of terrorist radicalization, lower threats to public safety and foster more resilient communities. Experts point out that these efforts are more likely to yield genuine results if the outreach police components reflect the racial, ethnic and religious diversity of the communities they serve (Cortright et al., 2011). Community advisory boards and security councils have proven to be effective forums for raising and addressing violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (OSCE TNTD and ODIHR, 2014). These are also useful and transparent platforms for civil society and community leaders to engage and provide feedback to law enforcement on ongoing efforts, and coordinate possible interventions (Slootman, et.al, 2006).

#### **4.1.4 Academicians/researchers**

The effectiveness of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism policies is inextricably linked to the quality of research and analysis underpinning their development and guiding the implementation of programmatic efforts (Smith, 2012). Therefore, the integration of experienced researchers, think tanks and academic institutions in both violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism policy-making and programme implementation processes is of strategic importance (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013). Evidence-based violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism research efforts that rely on rigorous techniques and objective assessment methodologies are more likely to accurately identify root causes and dynamic trends of terrorist radicalization (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2012). In turn, this can help tailor effective responses. Nevertheless, adequate research capabilities may not always be available, and government actors should consider integrating training and capacity building for researchers as one of their core violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism lines of efforts (Cortright et al., 2011).

#### **4.1.5 Information technology and media (IT) sector**

The Internet and social media revolution has broken down traditional communication barriers, creating a more interconnected world. Violent extremist organizations have recognized and exploited the power and unrivalled outreach opportunities that social media platforms provide, using them to inspire, recruit and mobilize support, wage psychological warfare, incite and coordinate attacks, and raise funds (Zimmermann, 2011). Their propaganda refers to these media platforms as tools of comparable importance to lethal weapons used in the battlefield. Given the extensive strategic and tactical use that violent extremists make of the Internet and social media, the IT sector has a key role to play both in disrupting the abusive use of their platforms and supporting civil society initiatives (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013). Over the past years, most of the main social media platforms have stepped up their efforts targeting online abuse and hate speech, resulting in the removal of extensive amounts of online content promoting violent extremism (Tilly, 2003). Tech companies have the technological capacities and resources to encourage and support research on

the misuse and exploitation of the Internet and social media platforms by violent extremist organizations helping policymakers develop more effective responses (Cortright et al., 2011). In relation to the media/reporters, the way violent extremism-related issues or incidents are reported has a profound impact on community dynamics, safety and anti-terrorists efforts. Biased news reporting can polarize communities, promote intolerance and hatred, and reinforce or exacerbate factors that are conducive to terrorist radicalization (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013). While the core principles of ethical journalism offer a sound framework for professional news coverage, reporting on a sensitive subject like violent extremism requires heightened awareness of the laws on the rights to privacy and presumption of innocence (World Economic Forum, 2013).

## 5. CHALLENGES IN COMBATING TERRORISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

The definition of terrorism forms the base of a challenge which hinders analysis of terrorism and makes the conceptualization of terrorism controversial; there are many varying definitions due to political reasons usually in form of propaganda – calling terrorist freedom fighters or *vis-vasa* (Slootman, et.al, 2006). Domestic terrorism is terror acts by groups confined within national boundaries and targets are exclusive to non-nationals (Smith, 2012). Also state-terrorism falls in this category in cases where state-actors – military, police etc. resort to terror means against its own nationals. While in international or transnational terrorism, terror acts by same or linked groups are perpetuated across more than one national boundary, thus non-nationals are often inclusively targeted and selected nationals are targeted because of their link with the non-nationals (Schanzer, et. al.2016). Other specific challenges include the following;

### 5.1. Increasing Radicalization and Extremism

Corruption, poverty, oppression, marginalization and religious extremism lead to radicalization particularly among young people leading to terror flourishing due to development problems (Cortright et al., 2011). Those factors can also have a combined effect as seen in the case of the Nigerian-*Boko-Haram* and Somali-*Alshabab*, and usually awareness through the use of media/internet has increased the spread of radicalism (Smith, 2012). Religious extremism which contributes to the greater terror percentage in Africa usually emanates from the predominant religions i.e. Christianity -38% of Africa's population and Islam -53% of Africa's population (Richard, 2005). These religions are not of origin from Africa, and thus the misconception of their beliefs which leads to radicalization can be attributed to external factor that contributes to terrorism (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013). The prison meant to be a correctional facility can in turn be a radicalization zone as most terrorist are in the same confinement with other criminals.

### 5.2. Anti-Terrorist Measures and its Implications on Civil Liberties

Anti-Terrorist measures and their implication on human rights has been one of the challenges in combating terrorism in Africa (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2012). Implementation of various anti-terrorist measures can lead to increase in terrorism as the people whose rights are denied may seek to find justice through use of terror as a strategy (Schanzer, et. al.2016). Likewise human rights activism can be viewed as a rhetorical nonsense that encourages civil unrest, disobedience and resistance to laws and revolution against the established government (Cortright et al., 2011). For example upholding freedom of speech with undermines peace incites terror across the world. The non-distinctiveness of terrorism from other criminal cases have also created a challenge, such cases of terror should be handled separately as it is a sensitive issue that undermines security and peace (Smith, 2012).

### 5.3. Multi-faceted Sources of Finance and Sponsorship

The notion that the emergence of terrorism is not unconnected with transnational support can be viewed as valid argument since local armed groups originally existing as insurgents finds it hard to win regional or international recognition but attain such position once they secure finance or sponsorship from external sources in form of funds from kidnapping, illegal transactions of national resources with foreign nations, and foreign support they received with the tag '*moderate rebels*' in form of systematic regime change to take over power from the established government (UNESCO, 2017). Those supported groups later transform to terror groups gaining regional and global support and spread through splitter groups and terror networks (Smith, 2012). For example the emergence of *Al-Qaeda* supported by the US to counter the domino effect of the communist Russia resulted in establishment of global recognition of *Al-Shabaab* which is believed to have allegiance with *Al-Qaeda* (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2013). Weak anti-terror finance combat have also contributed to the spread of terror in African region – classical example is the African leaders and official supporting terror groups for strategic interest, for example Nigerian leaders in the case of *Boko-haram*, and more often the Anti-terror Finance and Money Laundering regimes are inefficient to track secret or covert terror sponsorship (UNESCO, 2017). The USA sponsorship of rebels in Syria aided the finance and stability of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which controls part of Iraq and Syria—a group which *Boko-haram* pledged allegiance to (Smith, 2012).

### 5.4. Deficiencies in Intelligence Gathering

Despite the effort by African States in combating terror, there are still deficiencies in the area of intelligence (UNESCO, 2017). For instance, most of intelligence information are received from foreign intelligence agencies about impending attack and in

most cases such information are generalized and thus making it difficult to identify specifically the area of potential attack (Shtuni, 2016).

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Global terrorism is on the rise in the contemporary society with its various changing dynamics attributed to globalization. Owing to multiplicity of actors involved in terrorism and terrorist activities such as both the states and non-state actors, collective efforts is required especially in prevention and countering violent extremism and radicalization which today is a menace affecting both the developed and developing countries. While emerging challenges in addressing this menace includes increasing radicalization and extremism, implications of anti-terrorist measures on civil liberties, multi-faceted sources of finance and sponsorship to terrorist groups and deficiencies in intelligence gathering to counter their activities, intergovernmental agencies intelligence gathering and sharing on terrorist related activities, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism and a proactive approaches in identifying and addressing heterogeneous community needs are required as major steps in addressing terrorism..

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