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Police College

7th ANNUAL INTERPA CONFERENCE
"NEW TRENDS IN COMBATTING TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM"

The 7TH Annual INTERPA Conference on "*New trends in combatting terrorism and extremism*" was hosted by the police college of Qatar Doha at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel in Doha, Qatar between 02nd and 04th April 2018 with the attendance of **105** participants from **38** countries, **47** institutions, and **5** international organizations (Association of European Police College, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Police, African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention, and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency). Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kireçci from Bilkent University (Head of Ankara Center for Political and Economic Research) was the keynote speaker at the Conference and a total of **21 papers were presented** in six different sessions.

At the Conference, **5** new membership applications were voted and approved by the General Council of INTERPA, the new members are from the following countries: Timor-Leste, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Zambia. **With the new members, the INTERPA currently has 72 member institutions from 56 countries.**

The academic program of the 7th Annual INTERPA Conference started with the opening remarks of the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kireçci from Bilkent University on the main theme of conference, "New trends in combatting terrorism and extremism". In his keynote speech, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kireçci emphasized importance of examining new information era in the fight against terrorism and he also providing a framework of terrorism as an act of theater.

The 1st session was on the topic of "*Process of Radicalisation, Various Types of Radicalisation*". In this session, radicalization of opinion and that of actions were underlined as distinct processes. It is stated that dealing with radical attitudes and beliefs call for different set of skills than does fighting radical terrorists. Furthermore, the impact of rapid development of internet technology and that of network era on terrorism was emphasized.

It is indicated that in the new network era it is of great significance to look into the matching countermeasures to terrorism prevention and crime fighting in order to contribute national security and the World peace. It was noted that radicalization is a phased process of indoctrination that in generally accompanies the transformation of recruits into individuals determined to act with violence based on extremist ideologies. The reasons of this phenomenon are multiple; including political, historical, religious, economic, social and psychiatric reasons. These various factors can be analyzed

from different aspects; from a structural point of view to an individual one. Enabling factors are also to be mentioned as rallying ideologies play an important role.

The 2nd session was on the topic of "*Political Violence and Combating Terrorism*". In this session the role of family in combating terrorism was noted by underlying importance of providing a proper family atmosphere, equal treatment between children and being a friend to one's child. Furthermore, international cooperation on preventing and combatting terrorism and extremism in social networks was emphasized. It was noted that Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable targets of international terrorism and extremism and Vietnam is no exception and for effective preventing and combatting terrorism and extremism in social networks, international cooperation between countries is required.

The 3rd session was on the topic of "*Handling and Management of Crowds in Major Events and Occasions in Terms of Combating Terrorism and Extremism, Combating Extremism in Global Sport Event*." In this session, the rising extremism and terror on the football playfields and the roles of the sport institutions and the state in combating sport extremism was discussed. Furthermore, in order to provide safe environment during sport events, the importance of coordination between various institutions, including law enforcement, other government agencies, local authorities, and public was emphasized. Moreover, preparations for 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar was discussed in details, including information on security planning and preparation, strategic partnerships, and related projects. Finally, the importance of risk assessment in relation to terrorist attacks on sports events was underlined. Using the GTD[1] data of terrorist attacks from 1970 to 2016, the rank of risk objectively by the K-Means clustering method was presented and it was, based on the findings, suggested that K-Means clustering is effective for risk assessment.

The 4th session was on the topic of "*Struggle Against Terrorist Organizations and Visual Language Used by Terrorist Organizations*". This session began with the discussion of how the terrorist organizations which exploit the religion have been radicalized. In this context, their structural, tactical differences and activities were compared between FETO, El-kaide, Daesh and Hizbullah. In addition, the importance of tattooing symbols in the criminal environment and prison subculture was emphasized from the perspective of potential radicalisation processes and related security threats. In addition, attention has been drawn to the police authorities' functions in their counter-terrorism endeavors. The role of the community policing activities was stressed as a counter terrorism strategy to gather more reliable intelligence. Moreover, as case-study, DAESH was analyzed with the perspective of marketing strategy in spreading its propaganda and as an actor by building an empire without being present physically but deep-rooted ideologically.

The 5th session was on the topic of "**Implementation of Countries I**". In this regard, legal regulation of Mongolia to fight against terrorism and current situation in the country were discussed and also the importance of collaboration between intelligence agencies and executive organizations on

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[1] The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world, which can be found on the website http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/.

combating terrorism has been underlined. Furthermore, the issues of training cadets at The Kostanai Academy in relation to counteract terrorism and extremism was summarized. It was noted that the main attention was paid to a need to study effective international experience in implementing programs to counter terrorism and extremism. The current curriculum of basic-police training in-service trainings was also analyzed and evaluated at the TRNC Police Headquarters. The shared analysis of the results provided by the researchers with comprehensive sentiments about potential developments on the police-training in order to combat terrorism and extremism more effectively. Finally, the discussions about counter-terrorism were advanced in the axis of Sudan in terms of the national plans for combating and management of terrorism and political violence.

The 6th session was on the topic *"Implementation of Countries II"*. Theoretical background of implementations was discussed at a country level. Better understanding of the radicalization process and counter-terrorism strategies with an emphasis on implementations examined such as the importance of the harmonization of the realization of basic freedoms and rights on the one hand and more efficient criminal procedure on the other was noted. Vietnam's criminal law regulations were summarized and it is stated that Vietnams' regulations and foreign relations reveal that Vietnam wishes actively cooperate to counter terrorism for a world of peace. As a case study, the effectiveness of Uzbekistan's counterterrorist policies during the period of 1990-2017 were analyzed and by overviewing the development of radicalism in Uzbekistan, terrorist threats were evaluated. It was stressed that the opening and forgiving counterterrorism policies may remain effective in Uzbekistan even in the long-term due to the unique historic, economic, and social situation in the country and the specific geopolitical situation. Finally, in the presentation made by AEPC (The Association of European Police Collage), **Awareness and Actions Workshops on Prevention of Radicalization** interdisciplinary project was discussed in which the importance of raising awareness on prevention of radicalization was stressed.

The key points underlined during the conference are as follows:
First session:
- The differences between attitude and behavior have underlined in every psychology textbook, yet the distinction is not very clear in research on radicalization.
- The association between attitudes (including opinions and beliefs) and violent actions in relation to radicalization is generally weak. Consistent with this point, radical opinions are neither required not sufficient for radical violence. Dealing with radical attitudes and beliefs call for different set of skills than does fighting radical terrorists. Therefore, research on radicalization can benefit both conceptually and operationally from investigating radicalization of opinion and radicalization of action as distinct processes.
- Although, a rational choice framework, which argue that individuals make rational decisions based on loss and gain calculation related to their actions, is still very

influential; there is growing recognition of the importance of emotions and affective experience in understanding political radicalization.

- Social networks play important role in connecting people all over the world, especially in the age of Industry 4.0. Beside their advantages, social networks are used by terrorist groups for recruiting their potential candidates, guiding them to prepare necessary conditions for terrorist attacks. Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable targets of international terrorism and extremism and Vietnam is no exception. For effective preventing and combatting terrorism and extremism in social networks, international cooperation between countries is required.

- Radicalization is the process of indoctrination that generally accompanies the transformation of recruits into individuals determined to act with violence based on extremist ideologies

- Information Society has paved the way to a more complex means of spreading radicalization through the world.

- There is a need of a tailored counter-terrorism narrative along counter-terrorism policies to combat radicalization in the Internet era.

Second Session:

- The role of family in combating terrorism is outmost important with providing a proper family atmosphere, equal treatment between children and being a friend to one's child.

- International cooperation on preventing and combatting terrorism and extremism in social networks is a must.

- Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable targets of international terrorism and extremism and Vietnam is no exception and for effective preventing and combatting terrorism and extremism in social networks, international cooperation between countries is required.

Third Session

- The rising extremism and terror on the football playfields and the roles of the sport institutions and the state in combating sport extremism needs to be examined closely.

- In order to provide safe environment during sport events, coordination between various institutions, including law enforcement, other government agencies, local authorities, and public is essential.

- Preparations for 2024 FIFA World Cup Qatar was discussed in details, including information on security planning and preparation, strategic partnerships, and related projects.

- The importance of risk assessment in relation to terrorist attacks on sports events is vital. Using the GTD[2] data of terrorist attacks from 1970 to 2016, the rank of risk objectively by the K-

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Means clustering method was presented and it was, based on the findings, suggested that K-Means clustering is effective for risk assessment.

Fourth Session

- Radicalization is a process of being radical by various means but the end result will depend on the tolerance level of individual to submit to violent extremism or non-violent radical ideology

- Terrorism is simply an act of terror that violates all aspect of human dignity

- Daesh used well-crafted marketing strategies to lure and deceive foreign fighters into jihad adventurism

- Terrorist organizations exploiting a religion act with degenerate sense of religion, misinterpret the religious provisions and constitute their own ideologies with their own truths.

- Religiously motivated terrorist organizations construct the "other definition (concept for 'otherness') quite extensively when it is compared with classical terrorist organizations. Therefore, it is necessary to struggle with those who do not believe like them and violence is perceived as a religious rite.

- Since terrorism exploiting a religion has increased its activities down from 1980s, killing action for ideological purposes left its place to killing action for being granted an award life-after.

- It is seen both in Feto and in Daesh that a religion was taken out of its original meaning, altered meanings to the religion were attributed and militants were trained through those produced meanings.

- While FETO relies on a longer process of radicalization and the members of the organization are radicalized after they become an organization member; radicalization process takes a relatively short time in DAESH and frequently it starts prior to becoming an organization member.

- People tend to abuse whatever is prevalent. Because Islam is strong in terms of the number of believers in the world, terrorist organizations tend to exploit Islam more often.

- Terrorist organizations exploiting Islam are not only spreading the terror but also causing the spread of Islamophobia all over the world. In addition, they provide the 'use of Islamophobia' in favor of global powers. (Instrumentalisation of Islam).

Fifth Session:

- Terrorism and religious extremism pose a threat to the national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as of other countries around the world.

- The training of highly qualified law enforcement officers capable of resisting any manifestations of terrorism and religious extremism is the most important task facing educational institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

- There is an urgent need to study effective international experience in implementing programs to counter terrorism and extremism.

Sixth Session:

- Successful action in the fight against terrorism is a consequent of the prediction of special evidence actions in the normative framework of the Republic of Serbia that is an example of an efficient instrument for combating terrorism.

- One of the most important factors of the effectiveness of the preliminary proceeding in the fight against terrorism is the mutual cooperation between the main subjects of the previous criminal procedure of the Republic of Serbia, which is the police and the public prosecutor.

- Special evidence actions are becoming the foundation of a modern society in the fight against the most serious crimes that are certainly crimes of terrorism and also the harmonization of the realization of basic freedoms and rights on the one hand and more efficient criminal procedure on the other.

On behalf of the all INTERPA member institutions and Prof. Dr. Yılmaz ÇOLAK, the President of INTERPA, I would like to thank the Qatari Authorities and members of Qatar Police College for organizing such an commendable event and their hospitality.

April 04th 2018, Doha / Qatar.