

Forum: Human Rights Commission

Issue: The Question of a World Against Violent Extremism

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Introduction

No country or region is safe from an astounding impact of violent extremism. Although neither the United Nations (UN) nor the European Union (EU) has an official definition, according to United States Agency for International Development (USAID), violent extremism refers to “advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic and political objectives”.¹ On the contrary, one of the primary goals of the UN is to promote human rights and fundamental freedom universally. This is demonstrably further suggested in Article 1 of the UN Charter, stating “achieving international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.² Moreover, the United Nations Security Council increasingly places emphasis on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations: Peace, justice and strong institutions. It states that “The threats of international homicide ... are important to address to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.”³

On 7 and 8 April 2016, at the UN office at Geneva, the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism took place. Based on the previous debates such as the General Assembly on 12 and 16 February 2016, they had provided the international community an opportunity to address the drivers of violent extremism and to build upon the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action.⁴ Accordingly, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) has been addressing the topic of violent extremism since 1992.

Moreover, despite the current efforts and progress being made by organisations and commissions such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), there still are discriminations in silence that are to be further debated on in order to respect and preserve the cultures of nations.

¹ “Chapter I.” United Nations. Accessed November 1, 2018
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>.

² “Sustainable development goals.” United Nations. Accessed November 16, 2018
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

³ “Sustainable development goals.” United Nations. Accessed November 16, 2018
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

As a result, it is essential to recognise a close correlation between violent extremism and terrorism. In recent years, terror attacks in the forms of ideologically motivated or justified violence have caused drastic consequences around the world. Violent extremism, regardless of its degree, has been committed ubiquitously with self-indulgence due to conflicts of opinions in perspectives on economy, culture, humanitarian character or religion. This violence could be described as the difference between various perspectives as one man's terrorist could be seen as one man's freedom fighter. States are encouraged to engage with relevant communities and address the conditions conducive to violent extremism.

Definition of Key Terms

Violent extremism

Violent extremism is rarely defined; it remains vague. However, there are a number of definitions which have been already further developed at the national and international levels. For instance, this diverse phenomenon is being a more inclusive term than terrorism. The VE Action Plan by the Secretary-General suggests that "violent extremism encompasses a wider category of manifestations"⁴ since it includes forms of ideologically motivated violence that trigger violent action. However, fixed ideas on violent extremism are commonly built upon and shaped due to the aggressive terror activities of terrorist groups such as the Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) that challenge peace and justice.

Goal 16

Goal 16 is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. Goal 16 aims explicitly to achieve sustainable development by paving the way to ensure equal access to justice and its effect for all.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), with 57 participating States from North America, Europe, and Asia, is the largest regional security organisation for peace and human rights. The main goal of OSCE is to address and resolve issues such as establishing fundamental justice in judicial systems, arms control, promotion of human rights and the fight against violent extremism. In achieving such implementations, the OSCE cooperates with other international organisations such as the UN, Council of Europe, the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

⁴ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism | Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

As the United Nations Security Council emphasises the need for an approach to countering the spread of violent extremism, the Council underscores that CVE is an “essential element” in addressing the threat to international peace and security.⁵ Countering violent extremism could be in various forms. However, the Council significantly encourages the member states to have a genuine dialogue, inclusion, and broaden understanding.

Background and explanation of the question

The Relative Deprivation Theory could best explain the cause of irrational violent extremism in terms of psychosocial aspect by Dr. Ted Robert Gurr. This theory suggests the perceptions of difference between the expectations and the practical outcome could cause a deprivation both individually and collectively. For example, several States and countries that had been rid of colonisation and gained independence after World War II faced political confrontation within the country. In other words, individuals or even the whole society can suffer from psychological deprivation when there is a massive gap between the expectation and reality. Sovereign nations are the most fundamental and rudimentary to international politics as a whole. Today’s appearance of international politics is that this independent nation prioritises its own profits which leads to the potential power of a nation. So, the universal attributes of the current international politics are that the nations pursue their own benefits by any means necessary. Consequently, violent extremism is being used blatantly by sovereign nations.

Different perceptions and perspectives of the nations can lead to seeing one man’s terrorist while being one man’s freedom fighter. Accordingly, these asymmetric dualisms resulted in a sovereign nation to use violent extremism as a rational method to achieve a certain political objective. Most of the nations in modern times are under influence or even control and protected by the superpowers of the world. This process is done by the official collective treaty or an agreement based on the idea of political realism. Moreover, the reality is that the major superpowers of the world interfere with both the government and the military of weaker nations exclusively for their interests. During this process, a silent violent extremism is used.

Violent extremism is one of the most influential threats to international peace and security and therefore there is a great need to address this issue and resolve. No form of terrorism is justified, regardless of its ideology or philosophy, and there should not be any act of discrimination specifically associated with race, sex, language or religion. Accordingly, preventing and countering violent

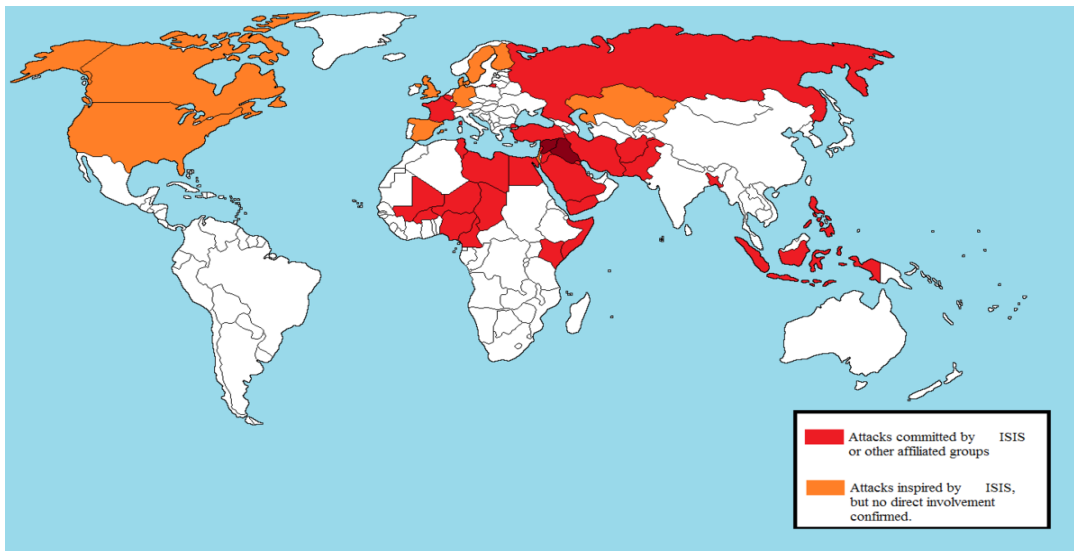
⁵ “Countering violent extremism - United Nations Security Council Counter - Terrorism Committee <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/countering-violent-extremism/>

extremism should be the priority. Therefore, the UN should place a great concern and importance on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Key States Involved and Their Views

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), proclaimed itself to be the Islamic State. It is a militant fundamentalist group that is particularly active in Syria and Iraq. This terrorist group has been designated a terrorist organisation by the Security Council. Moreover, ISIL is widely known for its strict puritanical ideology followed by several show executions and a historic scale ethnic cleansing in Iraq. Additionally, ISIL has committed terror attacks all over the globe.



A map of nations that have been attacked by ISIL ⁶

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is a newly established department through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/291 that aims to strengthen existing and develop new partnerships through regular travel and attendance at counter-terrorism-related meetings. The Office of Counter-Terrorism has five main functions ⁷:

- (a) provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;

⁶ "List of Terrorist Incidents Linked to ISIL." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents_linked_to_ISIL

⁷ "COUNTER TERRORISM." *United Nations*, www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/.

(b) enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

(c) strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;

(d) improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilisation for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; and

(e) ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

Timeline of Events

Country	Date	Description	Dead	Injured
Iraq	April 2013	Violence erupted when a group of protestors marched toward an Iraqi Army checkpoint in Hawija, near Kirkuk, sparking a violent confrontation. ^{8 9}	330+	~600
Syria	February 2016	Two car bombings in city of Homs. Explosions killed dozens of people. ¹⁰	46	100+
Philippines	May 2017	Maute group militants attacked Camp Ranao and occupied several buildings in the city, including Marawi City Hall, Mindanao State University, a medical centre and the city jail. ¹¹	593	500

⁸ "Iraq Deadly Bombings Hit Nasiriyah, Kirkuk and Baghdad." *BBC News*, BBC, 15 Apr. 2013, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22149863.

⁹ Jaboori, Rafid. "Iraqi Sunni Protest Clashes in Hawija Leave Many Dead." *BBC News*, BBC, 23 Apr. 2013, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22261422.

¹⁰ "Provisional Agreement Reached on Syrian Ceasefire, Car Bombs Kill 46 in City of Homs." *Montreal Gazette*, 21 Feb. 2016, montrealgazette.com/news/world/provisional-agreement-reached-on-syrian-ceasefire-car-bombs-kill-46-in-city-of-homs.

¹¹ "Marawi Crisis: What We Know-and Don't Know-so Far." *Philstar.com*, The Philippine Star, www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/05/29/1703153/marawi-crisis-what-we-knowand-dont-knowso-far.

Australia	November 2018	On November 9 2018, a Somali man, Hassan Khalif Shire Ali, set on fire his own car and then stabbed three people killing one and injuring two. ¹² Islamic State has taken responsibility through its Amaq news website.	1	2
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Date	Description of event
June 4, 1999	Treaty on Cooperation among the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism had been signed. Member States have defined terrorism as “an illegal act punishable under criminal law committed for the purpose of undermining public safety, influencing decision-making by the authorities or terrorising the population”. ¹³
June 3, 2002	The Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism was adopted by the member countries of the Organisation of American States (OAS) at its General Assembly. This negotiated pursuant to a mandate shortly after the terrorist attacks of 11 September in the United States. ¹⁴
March 3, 2016	Act on anti-terrorism was made in South Korea for the protection of citizens and public security. ¹⁵

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN Security Council and Human Rights Commission have discussed the question of “a World Against Violent Extremism” since 1992.

- Maintenance of international peace and security, 6 June 2018 (**S/RES/2419**)

¹² “Melbourne Attack: Man Shot Dead after Fire and Fatal Stabbing.” *BBC News*, BBC, 9 Nov. 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-46147581.

¹³ “Treaty on Cooperation among the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism.” *UN Treaties*, United Nations, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/db/terrorism/csi-english.pdf>

¹⁴ “Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism.” *UN Treaties*, United Nations. http://www.oas.org/xxxiiga/english/docs_en/docs_items/AGres1840_02.htm

¹⁵ “국가법령정보센터”, www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=181624&efYd=20160604#0000.

- The situation in Afghanistan, 8 March 2018 **(S/RES/2405)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 21 December 2017 **(S/RES/2396)**
- Threats to international peace and security, 21 September 2017 **(S/RES/2379)**
- The situation concerning Iraq, 14 July 2017 **(S/RES/2367)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 15 August **(S/RES/2170)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 24 September 2014 **(S/RES/2178)**
- Iraq, 29 July 2015 **(S/RES/2233)**
- The situation concerning Iraq, 25 July 2016 **(S/RES/2299)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 12 December 2016 **(S/RES/2322)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 8 October 2004 **(S/RES/1566)**
- The situation in Afghanistan, 15 October 1999 **(S/RES/1267)**
- Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, 28 April 2004 **(S/RES/1540)**
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 28 September 2001 **(S/RES/1373)**

- Resolution 1373 was adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. ¹⁶

Possible Solutions

Although it is hard to address all forms of violent extremism that is taking place all around the world, it is clear that terrorism has a direct impact on human rights.

Reduction of poverty, injustice and lack of education

The main causes of terrorism are poverty, injustice and lack of education. Moreover, terrorism occurs from unemployment rate and a lack of resources within the country. If political leaders of a country work together to make better policies that guarantee citizens a stable job and offer more education opportunities, terrorism would not be necessary for anyone.

Improving border controls

Strict border controls would both record all the movements and the data of the people and restrict them from freely traveling back and forth.

Reducing access to dangerous weapons

¹⁶ "Chapter VII." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vii/index.html.

The Council should do everything possible to prevent dangerous weapons falling into the hands of the wrong people.

Preventing radicalisation

In order to reduce terrorism and violent extremism, States must improve the criminal justice response to prevent radicalisation. Ultimately, it is better to prevent violent extremism rather than attempting to judge and punish the case afterwards, neglecting it until it becomes a social dilemma. Therefore, Member States should focus on changing the perceptions of extremist beliefs and educate certain challenges posed by extreme ideologies.

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