

Prerequisites for Systematic Fighting Terrorism

Krunoslav Antoliš*

Original paper
UDC 343.326:327
Received in December 2005

In modern world, global terrorism is deemed true menace to all countries of the world, especially to those being member states of anti-terrorist (AT) coalition. We all agree that no goal justifies terrorism, but nevertheless our approach must be based primarily on the principle of legal punishment, and by no means on the principle of revenge¹. Terrorism must not become legal means of combating evolutionary changes in human society². Furthermore, we hold that permanent protection of basic human rights of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia within the combating terrorism context is of the utmost importance. International responsibilities taken by the AT coalition member states including Croatia are as follows: to follow national implementation of the following resolutions of the UN Security Council: Resolution 1267 (1999) on measures to be taken against Taliban regime, Resolution 1373 (2001) on pre-emption of terrorism and Resolution 1566 (2004) on threat to the world peace caused by terrorist attacks, and to implement provisions stipulated by other relevant international acts i.e., initiatives taken by the European Union, NATO, Council of Europe, OSCE, regarding pre-emption of terrorism. Institutionalization of a scientific and research center – Strategic Institute for National Security (SINS) aimed at systematic studying of the issue of fighting terrorism, integration and coordination of overall activities including projects, implementation and supervision at the level of state would create necessary prerequisites for achieving a required level of national security in accord with newly arisen threats caused by global terrorism, contributing in that fashion to regional and global security.

Key words: terrorism, prerequisites, institutionalization, human resources, integrality, interoperability, compatibility

1. Introduction

Crucial issues of today's world are directly or indirectly connected with combating terrorism. Many who hold this century to be particularly oriented to new scientific and technological inventions are only partially right, as it is already clear that overall world transformations will be determined by combating terrorism. In order to observe the problem and take a clearer view of the above-mentioned trend, I think that it is both scientifically justified and tempting to seek and offer the answers to the following three questions:

- * Where is terrorism going?
- * What should be done at national level concerning combating terrorism?
- * What should be done at global level concerning combating terrorism?

2. Terrorism and its likely development trends

A new bipolarity has returned worldwide since September 11, based primarily on Al-Qaeda-USA relations, and it has gone global since the establishment of the Anti-Terrorist Alliance (ATA) on the one side and the transformation of Al-Qaeda from a group of rebels to an international terrorist organization and to its ultimate transformation into the Global Terrorist Movement (GTM) on the other. This theory is supported by the sharp increase in the frequency of terrorist attacks. For example, the frequency of attacks today is 8 times as often, having increased from an Al-Qaeda attack on the average of once every two years to a GTM attack every three months today.³ Global combat against the GTM by the ATA must be primarily preemptive but also curative.

A preemptive response by the ATA to the GTM concept must be directed at GTM logistics, which are

* Krunoslav Antoliš, PhD, Assistant Professor

the basis of the GTM's operative power. Therefore, the ATA must be able to take a step further towards narrowing the logistic space of the GTM, bearing in mind that a wrong move (or moves) could be fatal to world peace, which regarding the global dimension of terrorism, is only a phrase. The key to success lies in the ATA's military, political and economic interventions in regions under terrorist attack and in predicting the likely direction of terrorist expansion towards terrorism-prone areas, areas economically and politically unstable such as regions in transition and/or regions with organized crime where the territory is not in the control of official authorities, etc.

Realistically, given the ATA's current capacity, not all the targets recognized as symbols of western civilizations by the GTM can be protected which brings us to a terrifying situation, one which forces the ATA to look for protection from attacks by the GTM and, at the same time, be continuously upgrading self-protection measures. In order to avoid events much worse than those on 9/11, we can't feel secure with the 'current peace' simply because there haven't been any terrorist attacks on US territory since 9/11; this mustn't be taken as the achievement of complete security. Concerning the threat to the ATA, it has certainly been extended to its member states and its representative offices; i.e., ATA's symbols in states not directly included in the ATA, especially those with a majority Muslim population who are not ready to offer shelter to GTM members. Finding suitable ways of combating terrorism is a particular problem in these states and even entire regions in which terrorists are sheltered and their supporters recruited.

Apart from taking direct military actions against terrorist groups and destroying their logistical support, there is a whole palette of options available to the ATA states and the UN-led world community which could contribute to a better status for moderates in the states recognized today, to a greater or lesser degree, as logistical supporters of the GTM. One of the major measures available to the ATA states is direct help to the government or the moderates who do not accept terrorism as a way of fighting in the fields of policy, economy and military, with the goal of making a stable, political and economical relationship in the terrorism-prone regions and states. At the same time, the ATA should be changing its image from one as an aggressor in Islamic states, an image that is continuously being imposed by the GTM, to one that is helping Islamic states achieve overall progress and treating them as true partners in the future world community of equal states and peoples.

The threat of terrorist attacks is slowly moving towards objectives, which are poorly protected and harder to defend: economic (banks, hotels, tourism), religious (non-Muslim religions), popular centers in western states, and the ATA member states. To fulfill its threats, Al-Qaeda needs to establish the GTM as the

only platform that can provide the logistic prerequisites to attack planned targets and to achieve Al-Qaeda's ultimate global goals. The means available to the GTM are growing on a daily basis—it is known that global knowledge is doubled every two to three years—and a number of new means are being developed. Some of the new means can be used in two ways; for example, artificial fertilizer normally used in farming can also be used in bomb manufacturing (Homeland War in Croatia); the situation is similar with some pharmaceutical products. In accordance with new knowledge and the fact that the GTM recruits its members from different social classes (rich, poor, comparatively educated, even some scientists), a dangerous trend of being able to provide, use and develop double-purpose technology is becoming more obvious within the GTM. The new tendency is evident in the interest of some GTM members, Al-Qaeda in particular, in giving instructions and formulas to terrorists on how to produce chemical, biological and radiological agents and devices for spreading and clustering them when they are training several hundred of their members for such terrorist acts. This all proves the theory of the high complexity involved in combating terrorism today and the necessity of creating a global concept for combating terrorism as the only possible solution to the problem.

According to the aforementioned, my concept is as follows: to research and develop GP³CT - global permanent prepared pre-emptive combating terrorism system with efficient curative forces FM²R - force for multinational momentarily reaction).⁴

3. Conceptual approach to fighting terrorism

Efficient combating against terrorism, being a global threat to the modern world, is possible only by developing a systematic and comprehensive concept. Its pre-emptive component should be its main feature, yet efficient legal remedies should at the same time, characterize it. Such a view opens a possibility and creates a need to include overall resources, human resources in particular, which is able to develop and launch an anti-terrorist concept of required quality both scientifically and professionally.

It is possible to strengthen the national defense system through: organizing international conferences on combating terrorism, exchanging knowledge and experience among experts from the country and the world and through establishing cooperation⁵ among compatible institutions of the system whose primary task is to provide security in the states and regions. Since terrorism cannot be regarded just as a temporary threat but rather as a situation showing no signs of pacification, it is necessary to create a comprehensive, systematic approach to combat terrorism⁶. Educationally, this approach should be compatible with similar teaching materials in the other member states of the ATC

lition. Operatively and tactically, it should be interoperable due to the need of joint actions in particular crises. Concerning its concept and development, it should be capable of integration at the regional and global level. One of the main goals of this article is to offer knowledge-based answers to the following questions:

- * Which way to take? &
- * What to do to build up the system including aforementioned features?

For example, Croatia was among the first states to join the anti-terrorist coalition and its current tendencies are aimed at taking a partnership role in this coalition⁷. With the experience of the Patriotic Defense War, which, by its main features, was anti-terrorist war, and with the intellectual resources available in Croatia, we hold that we can fulfill this partnership role in a responsible and professional manner.

Referring to the above mentioned, by adequate approach to this multidisciplinary issue, it is necessary to create organizational preconditions to its successful solution. At that point, it is important to build up suitable information resources which, enriched by the experience from the Patriotic Defense War, would be a guarantee of future successful system.

Multidisciplinary approach to fighting terrorism imposes the need to adjust the parameters in order to define and describe the issue in particular segments. Such approach demands good understanding of the segments and the adjustment of different parameters to understand various segments. The goal is to create interfaces to provide integrability for newly built model and interoperability of expert groups. The approach defined in this fashion shows the need for establishing organizational form as a prerequisite to put such concept of fighting terrorism into operation.

Establishment of Strategic Institute for National Security (SINS) would be a historic step forward towards setting a firm basis for systematic fighting terrorism at the national level.

Yet, the role of SINS would be recognized not only at national but also at regional and global level, especially through the following aspects: exchange of knowledge and technologies, coordination, integration, projects, implementation and supervision of the newly built system.

The power of this approach is in creation of prerequisites so that similar systems, based on similar model, could be established in the region. It would make conditions for building a network of such institutions being able to increase multilaterally the security level in the neighborhood and consequently increase the global security.

The advantage of such a model is in providing permanent staff with the experts meeting the academic demands. This should provide the required level of the SINS expert invariability regarding political changes. Political determinism in selection of the security sys-

tem personnel with regard to region which is obvious through numerous and deep changes of staff has strong impact on national security in some states in the region with negative consequences for regional and even global security.⁸

Based on information technology and through the SINS regional networks it would be possible to achieve simultaneous education of human resources through the same programs adjusted and interconnected by information technology providing the required level of compatibility necessary for joint interoperable anti-terrorist acting regionally as well as globally.

4. Human resources in fighting terrorism

In accord with the international responsibilities of the Republic of Croatia (RC) and importance of human resources in fighting terrorism it would be extremely important to elaborate the issues at scientific and expert meetings. The issues to be analyzed are as follows:

- * Security requirements for the Republic of Croatia, economic agents and civil society, multidisciplinary and interoperability of the expert teams dealing with fighting terrorism.

- * Scientific and technological preconditions for fighting terrorism, research projects (scientific and professional), setting theoretical and practical foundations – teaching material, structuring educational levels, projects directing education along with corresponding curriculum

- * Education and improvement of human resources in fighting terrorism, comparison of educational capacities and the requirements of today's society with regard to profiling the experts for fighting terrorism

Legislative preconditions for setting overall educational system for fighting terrorism at all levels and educational profiles and life long improvement.

This concept of thematic units is directly connected with the concern over the most significant factor in fighting terrorism, i.e. human resources. Regarding the issue of fighting terrorism from the point of human resources, it is necessary to understand the need for scientific curriculum and experts education as well as for educational and research institutions such as the Police Academy of the Ministry of the Interior of RC which could provide them.

Creating scientific and technological preconditions for fighting terrorism based on national research projects is a guarantee of success in achieving original scientific and expert program needed in creation of a high quality, updated and internationally verified curriculum (Bologna approach)

Economic agents, by their complexity and importance for Croatian economy in the conditions imposed by contemporary terrorism, have a demanding task to watch their own security. In this respect, well-

educated professionals who create security systems and deal with their efficiency are certainly a high-ranking guarantee factor.

The issue of human resources in fighting terrorism elaborated through scientific and professional meetings could substantially help in redefining position and role of those who are the most responsible for creation of scientific, educational and research prerequisites necessary to achieve the above-mentioned tasks.

Setting appropriate legislative framework for education and life-long improvement of the experts in the field of fighting terrorism is one of the conditions to build a successful and efficient system for fighting terrorism.

5. Conclusion

No doubt that our own security today cannot be viewed as an isolated issue but as a partnership aimed at global security grounded on mutually accepted princi-

ples and responsibilities in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions⁹. So far experience in combating global terrorism indicates the necessity of including scientists and experts from all ATA coalition member states in building the world network of experts, particularly the experts in defense and security domain. The purpose of this network would be to facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge of the best solutions to the ATA coalition joint security issues.

Establishment of SINS would make an institutional precondition necessary for improvement of national and regional security level and positioning Croatia as a partner state at global level of fighting terrorism. Regarding the need for educated and professional human resources in fighting terrorism, the difference should be made between the needs and requirements of economical agents on one and civil society in general on the other side. With this respect, the existing national, scientific and professional capacities such as the Police Academy of RC should be reconsidered. ■

NOTES

¹ Antoliš, K.: The opening address at the international conference System building approach to combating terrorism, February, 2005. Zagreb, Croatia.

² Antoliš, K.: Liberal Democracy & Combating Terrorism, Quarterly Conference of PfP Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, September, 2003. West Point, New York, USA. (www.pfpconsortium.org)

³ Rohan Gunaratna: Terrorist Outlook for 2004: The New Security Environment, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Singapore, December 2003.

⁴ Antoliš, K.: Information exchange and cooperation in Combating Terrorism - draft, Combating Terrorism Working Group of the PfP Consortium - Tashkent Meeting, 11-14 March 2003, Uzbekistan.

⁵ Antoliš, K.: Information exchange and cooperation in Combating Terrorism - draft, Combating Terrorism Working Group of the PfP Consortium - Tashkent Meeting, 11-14 March 2003, Uzbekistan.

⁶ Antoliš, K.: Terrorism and Global Trends, Croatian International Relations Review, Vol. VIII, No.26/27-2002., and pp.:13-19, 2002. Zagreb, Croatia.

⁷ Antoliš, K.: Partnership in Combating Terrorism, Conference: Countering Terrorism in Southeast Europe: Future Directions in SEDAM Cooperation, 8-13 December 2002. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

⁸ Antoliš, K.: (2002) "Dr. Antolis' presentation about Croatia's approach to developing an ADL system", Workshop of the PfP Consortium, Advanced Distributed Learning - Working Group (ADL-WG), 4-6 September 2002 in Kiev. (www.isn.ethz.ch/adl-wg/home.htm).

⁹ Antoliš, K.: The stability of "the small" is the safety pledge of "the big", Terrorism and security in the 21st century, South-east Europe and the World, 25-27 September 2002. Zagreb, Croatia.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Antoliš, K.: (2002) "Dr. Antolis' presentation about Croatia's approach to developing an ADL system", Workshop of the PfP Consortium, Advanced Distributed Learning - Working Group (ADL-WG), 4-6 September 200, in Kiev. (www.isn.ethz.ch/adl-wg/home.htm).

2. Antoliš, K.: The stability of "the small" is the safety pledge of "the big", Terrorism and security in the 21st century, South-east Europe and the World, 25-27 September 2002. , Zagreb, Croatia.

3. Antoliš, K.: Partnership in Combating Terrorism, Conference: Countering Terrorism in Southeast Europe: Future Directions in SEDAM Cooperation, 8-13 December 2002. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

4. Antoliš, K.: Terrorism and Global Trends, Croatian International Relations Review, Vol. VIII, No.26/27-2002., pp. 13-19, 2002. Zagreb, Croatia.

5. Antoliš, K.: Information exchange and cooperation in Combating Terrorism - draft, Combating Terrorism Working Group of the PfP Consortium - Tashkent Meeting, 11-14 March 2003, Uzbekistan.

6. Antoliš, K.: Liberal Democracy & Combating Terrorism, Quarterly Conference of PfP Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, September, 2003. West Point, New York, USA. (www.pfpconsortium.org)

7. Antoliš, K.: Information and organization prerequisite in combating terrorism, Okrogla miza: Oborožene sile in boj proti terorizmu. 2004. Gornja Radgona, Slovenia.

8. Antoliš, K.: The opening address on international conference System building approach to combating terrorism, Croatian Parliament, February, 2005. Zagreb, Croatia.

9. Rohan Gunaratna: Terrorist Outlook for 2004: The New Security Environment, Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Singapore, December 2003.

10. IS concept paper on Education for reform, Annual conference of the PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes, June, 2005. Vienna, Austria.