

CURRENT TERRORISM, SERIOUS RISK TO THE COMMON SECURITY OF EUROPE

*General (ret.) Professor Anghel ANDREESCU, PhD**

Abstract: *The terrorist organizations are despotic entities that ignore laws and common sense, fighting to disrupt and destabilize the modern world in order to take advantage of Western democracy.*

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The attacks upon the symbols of United States' economic and military power showed how vulnerable we are and the world should have understood that it was high time they annihilated the sources of terrorism. Yet, the situation was completely different, as the escalation of violence continued in Europe: in Madrid, London, Brussels, Paris, Berlin etc., especially after May 2015.

Nothing is ever going to be the same as before, so we are going to be forced to face „*an unusually dynamic, turbulent and multidimensional future*”, the kind of future highly marked by uncertainty. Thus, having a vision upon the future does not require luck or intuition, but rather knowledge, experience and the will to fight this powerful scourge.

Terrorists will be defeated or annihilated only when the ideologies motivating them are no longer valid.

Therefore we could state that „*this is a completely new language of hostilities, in which rules and delimitations and even the weapons used in this new asymmetric warfare are going to define the 21st century. World War 3 is in full progress.*”¹

* Academy of Romanian Scientists, e-mail: xwx52@yahoo.com

¹ James Canton, *Provocările viitorului*, Editura Polirom, Iași, 2010, p. 230.

Everything has to be reconsidered and adapted to the new current state of facts of the 21st century, so what it takes is first and foremost political will.

Terrorist organizations are despotic, lawless entities that are fighting to destabilize modern world and take advantage of western democracies. They conduct commercial activities, recruit armies, direct banks, gather funds, trade resources – and are thus heading towards another type of future characterized by a complex, asymmetric warfare.²

The predictions of futurologist James Canton were completed by Alvin Toffler, the scientist who founded a new subject „futurology”, who predicted in 2010 that Muslim migration towards the West was going to increase, with serious consequences from all points of view, but especially with respect to public safety.

On the other hand, CIA predictions made in 2017 for the next period, in the field of security, are not positive at all, rather on the contrary. Tensions among states and within states themselves are going to increase and so is the terrorist threat.

States will become evermore segregated and they will find it more and more difficult to counter these serious acts of terrorism. This will happen on the background of slowing down economic growth, of protectionist measures, of tensions followed by economic and diplomatic repercussions, of hybrid warfare, cyber attacks, etc.

„In order to combat terrorism, it is first of all necessary to understand the roots of evil. A current diagnosis assure better chances of healing.

In case of an error of judgment, the disease grows worse. The first thing to do is find the appropriate cure that might result in complete recovery.”³

USA special forces and those of the main EU countries have conducted a lot of preventive and neutralizing actions against terrorist leaders, especially Al Qaeda and ISIS, namely Bin Laden, Mohammed Atif, Zubaida, Baghdadi etc. Still, violence has not been cut down.

² Idem, pct. 1.

³ Ali Laïdi, *Efectul de bumerang. Cum a determinat globalizarea apariția terorismului*, House of Guides, București, 2007, p. 165.

Terrorist cells have permanently recovered. The terrorists' sources of recruitment seem to be limitless, just as their financing sources, the main providers of which being the Muslim states rich in energetic resources in the Gulf and the rich sheiks in the East.

ISIS, through its modern propaganda, has managed to draw a lot of fighters from the former elite troops in Iraq, especially skilled in intelligence, as well as from Syria, Libya and the West. The positive messages conveyed by ISIS to Muslims seem to have paid off. They also made use of religious indoctrination, political-military schemes, terrorist tactics, territorial administration within the disrupted Eastern world of several years, as well as of mobile canteens, distributing electricity, road mending, and so on and so forth.

ISIS is a new type of terrorism, the key for success being the speed of privatization of terrorism as compared to other terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda, Muslim Brothers, etc. We may consider as important aspects in this respect the ability to work with local leaders, the possibility to attract them by making use of financial facilities, the capacity to motivate own fighters with money, the sharing of certain accumulated richness, the excellent relationships with a lot of official authorities in Eastern states.

After conquering a larger surface than Great Britain in the area, from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, ISIS wanted to claim other states' territories in the area, but Russian and Turkish intervention side by side with the USA led to the reduction to less than the previously conquered surface and massive loss of combatants and weapons.

However, ISIS still remains the richest terrorist organization of the current period with a wealth estimated at over 2 billion dollars, besides the money coming from oil and weapon smuggling, other illegal taxes on businesses, drug peddling, etc.

The rapid rise of ISIS, from regional to world-level actor threatening world security was also caused by the failure of the Western world and the rest of human civilizations to solve the great issues of world order, both for themselves and for Europe too.

There was an attempt to develop Iraqi or Afghan armies by means of Western instructors or weapons; nevertheless, results do not match expectations. The new Iraqi army is a lot inferior to the army under the

command of former leader, Saddam Hussein; not to mention very low morale, no real motivation and lack of adjustment to the new circumstances.

All these are enhanced by tribal fragmentation, as it is in Libya or Iraq, the sectarianism and specificity of each country belonging to the „Extended Middle East”, that is a region with over 450 million inhabitants and 25 states, where Palestinians and Kurds still aspire to national states. We cannot omit the tensions between Shia and Sunni in Iraq and other areas, or the re-emergence of Iran in the political and diplomatic environment (aspect contested by Israel and Saudi Arabia), or Turkey’s desire to adhere to the EU, although it does not fulfill the necessary requirements, especially the political ones. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have not dissimulated their irritation towards Iran.

Russia took advantage of the Western world’s weaknesses and lack of decisions, partially changing the negative perception determined by the Ukrainian crisis and the occupation of Crimea, through its involvement in the war against ISIS, supporting Syria, where it has a powerful military base.

All these led in turn to the situation in which Russia initiated powerful air attacks over Ukraine, in the Eastern region, supporting the separatists in the East of this country at the end of January 2017 and continuing to acquire new Ukrainian territories.

We may say that the military, civilian, or other types of solutions adopted so far, in the East, have not yet resulted in visible consequences. Actually, without a fast and willing agreement among the great powers, nothing is going to happen, as the region has determined large flows of migrations towards the West, generating higher and higher risks of serious destabilization of European citizens’ security.

The West seems to be on its deathbed judging from its lack of reaction, although it has been constantly affected by terrorism and immigration.

Islam is an expansionist religion, while Christianity is more tolerant and less inclined towards waging „campaigns” to gain new adepts.

If migration continues at the same pace in the failed states, such as: Iraq, Syria, Libya etc. it will lead to the appearance of „Eurabia” until the end of the century and the number of mosques will exceed the number of Christian churches. Christian churches will be torn to pieces – exactly what

happened in Kosovo and Bosnia) – making room for a double number of mosques.

In Peter Mansfield's work⁴, considered to be most relevant with respect to political, economic, religious events and rivalries in the area, it is stated that the USA and Europe are responsible for not acting in order to stop the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, while Russia and Iran supported Assad.

Civil war caused over one million casualties in Syria and over 11 million refugees who fled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and finally, Europe.

The truth is that the refugees in the Near and Middle East or the North of Africa immigrated with the final purpose of trying to reach Europe by any means. The dissolution of states in the region led to this situation. On the other hand, the Arab Spring made other hundreds of thousands of victims and finally millions of refugees to leave towards Europe.

Since September 11, 2001, up to the present moment, over 27,000 incidents were caused by Islamic terrorists and it is believed that ISIS infiltrated in Europe 4-5,000 fighters in order to conquer Europe from within.

The 21st century is highly likely to be the migration century, given the number of immigrants, the ways in which migration was conducted, violence and lack of order, or the adopted general chaos.⁵

We may assume that the wave of refugees moving towards Europe will grow bigger and bigger, as the current state could be considered only a beginning, generating all the predictable consequences upon the serious deterioration of security and public order from the old continent.

The four failed states that could still retain population are gone, leading to the legitimate question: „who is going to stop the millions of refugees for fear of ISIS?

Germany's uninspired move of inviting immigrants corroborated with the powerless EU structures in front of the wave of refugees will determine extreme tensions in Europe.

⁴ Peter Mansfield, *O istorie a Orientului Mijlociu*, Editura Humanitas, București, 2015.

⁵ Colectiv, *Efectul migrației asupra securității României și Europei*, Editura Rao, București, 2016, p. 262.

The chances to control migration are minimal and the long-term consequences, dramatic.

That is why some say that Europe will have to pay the price for the Middle East conflict, this time-bomb with unimaginable consequences.

Why did Europe allow itself to be surprised for so many years without taking measures?

It was recently decided to create buffer zones in the North of Africa; the decision has not yet turned to facts – as it happens with Turkey – since Erdogan continued to claim various things, among which being paid damages and being admitted as a fully fledged European Union member.

Russia took advantage of Europe and USA decision-making capacity, coming to negotiation table from the same position as the USA, while Western leaders were too concerned with recovering from the crisis and sterile, unconcluded talks on the same domain of EU security.

Actually the greatest danger is the return to their original states of several terrorists with years of experience in the battles in the East, at least 1,000 in France, including 200 women. The waves of migrants were the ideal means of breaking into these states and they will be kept „asleep” and waiting for calls to action, the Western environment being favorable to the desired purpose. The terrorist attacks in the last years as well as those annihilated by the EU special services prove these facts are true.

The outskirts of all large cities have been lost for almost ten years, being occupied by immigrants. Actually, studies have shown that the 2nd or 3rd generation Muslim immigrants are less integrated, or not at all, as compared to their parents.

Recently, in Europe (France, Germany etc.), the authorities took the decision to close down mosques that for several years had served as shelters for fundamentalist imams to recruit and train the future terrorists.

Terrorist attacks in the last years made elites think over issues such as globalization, democracy and security by showing how vulnerable European states proved to be.

In fact, modernism could not gain terrain in the Muslim world when confronted with its religious fundamentalism, lack of education, and under-development in many cases.

„The best way to combat terrorism based on Islamic fundamentalism is to annihilate the influence of Jihadist groups over the large masses of Muslims they target.”⁶

We may conclude that the world is now at a junction point and we will have to either work together in the fight against terrorism or need to face a gloomy future that will include this threat along the entire 21st century.



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⁶ Cristian Barna, *Jihad în Europa*, Editura Top Form, București 2016, p. 188.