

ISLAMIC STATE TERRORIST ORGANISATION: A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE MOVEMENT'S IDEOLOGICAL POSTURE AND IMPLICATIONS TO GLOBAL PEACE

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ABSTRACT

The Islamic State terrorist organisation has become a big concern to the actors of world politics and a serious threat to global peace and security. Many nations are currently facing serious terrorists attacks and attempts by these nations to curb the menace has appeared as clipping the local tentacles of what has become an international octopus. Since the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) shot into the news after its take-over of Mosul, many have been confused over the objectives of the group and the nature of attacks by the group has shown beyond doubt that the world was facing another, perhaps more gruesome mode of global terrorism. The group appears even more dangerous than the parent terrorist organisation, the Al Qaeda. Given the fact that citizens of many countries have joined the group and with valid passports to return to their home countries and carryout the objectives of the organisation, this violence may remain a recurring lethal global problem which threatens the sovereignty and development of several nations in recent times. The growing Islamic fundamentalism around the world has made highly volatile nations prone to religious violence and the growth of terrorism. Relations between ISIS—and its prior incarnations and al-Qaeda have been fraught with distrust, open competition, and outright hostility that have grown over time. The two groups are now in an open war for supremacy of the global jihadist movement around the world. One way of proving might by the terrorists is unleashing terror on the unsuspecting civilians. ISIS appears to hold an advantage, but the battle is not over yet. Their increasingly brutal, brazen attacks and tactics have raised alarms that they could have their sights on expanding their operations beyond Iraq and Syria. What is the philosophy and ideology of this group? How did it emerge? What are its main operational tactics and their impact on Global peace and security? Who is sponsoring this group? And what are the future scenarios for internal security organisations to deal with the threat? These questions are what this paper attempts to address in a very concise manner. With recommendations

that to fight international terrorism, there must be collective efforts by actors of international politics and countries of the world while internal insurgencies must not be allowed to fester.

Keywords: International, Terrorism, Al Qaeda, ISIS, Peace, Security, Al Qaeda.

Introduction

Terrorism is a dynamic phenomenon that develops over time, gradually changing its shape and activities. It is carried out by various organizations in the service of different ideologies. Without a doubt, terrorism evokes strong feelings whenever it is discussed. Terrorism seems to have increased markedly in the past few years. Religious and political extremists in various parts of the world have continuously attacked the states and its apparatuses, multinational cooperation, high-jacked airlines, bomb government buildings, held international media personality hostages, kidnapped government officials, business executives, take over communities, abduct school children, behead people in the most gory manner and threaten international peace and security. The world is facing a different form of problem. This is international terrorism.

Terrorism is defined as premeditated political violence against civilians with the objective of maximizing media exposure to the act and, ultimately, to the terror group and/or to its “cause.”¹ International terrorism is defined as terrorist acts involving citizens and/or territory of more than one country.

One thing that has helped the growth of the Islamic State Terrorist organization is the politically instability in the region and also, the religious and political divide in Nigeria has also helped in the growth of the Boko Haram group and Ansaru, these organizations are seemingly coming together with a single focus of building a caliphate. I am poised to opine that domestic political instability drives international terrorism. Naturally, if these spill-over effects are substantial, they will be larger on domestic than on international terrorism.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in human experience. This is not the first generation to witness the menace. Those who chose to oppose states, kings, and princes have used violence throughout human history. This sort of violence can be differentiated from what is termed as terrorism. Violence in opposition to a government is often targeted against soldiers and those who govern. However, terrorism is characterized by the use of violence against civilians, with the expressed desire of causing

¹ Krueger and Maleckova (2003, p. 120)

terror or panic in the population. One fundamental thing about terrorism is that that terrorist wanted many people watching, than many people dead.

In understanding the phenomenon and preventing future terrorist attacks, researchers have focused primarily on understanding the rationale of terrorist organizations in general and Global Jihad organizations in particular – their cost-benefit calculations and their decision-making processes. “Trends” in terrorism have also been explored – often focusing on the introduction, transition, or prominence of a specific modus operandi or a methods, such as suicide bombings, the Global Jihad movement, or the use of unconventional weapons. Terrorism can be said to be the deliberate use of violence aimed against civilians in order to achieve political goals, which could be nationalistic, socioeconomic, ideological, religious, etc.

Perhaps the most striking development is that terrorism has become bloodier, in terms of what acts are committed and how many victims are involved. The order of magnitude has increased almost every decade. In the 1970s, the bloodiest incidents caused fatalities in the tens. In the 1980s, fatalities from the worst incidents were in the hundreds; by the 1990s, attacks on this scale had become more frequent. However, in recent times, we contemplate plausible scenarios in which tens of thousands might die.

The psychological-sociological school, represented most recently by scholars have stresses the phenomenon’s psychological component, maintaining that the immediate and central goal of terrorism is to instill fear and anxiety, while its political goals are long term².

Ideology of ISIS as A Jihadist Terrorist Organisation

The ideology of the group is wrought out of the Islamic ideology of universality of Islam. Muslims consider Islam to be a universal religion that encompasses all aspects of life, ultimately manifesting itself in the establishment of a universal Islamic state³. This political idea of Islam is embodied in the concept of the ummah (community), which is the idea that all Muslims, wherever they reside, are bound together through a common faith that transcends geographical, political, or national boundaries⁴. This is a form of brotherhood and sharing of a common fate. This common bond is

² Post , J. M . 1987 . Rewarding fire with fire – effects of retaliation on terrorist group-dynamics . *Terrorism* 10 (1) : 23 – 35 .

³ Majid Khadduri, War And Peace In The Law Of Islam 48 (Lawbook Exchange ed. 2010).

⁴ ibid

formed through Muslims' allegiance to Allah and to the Prophet Muhammad⁵. Because Allah revealed all laws concerning religious and secular matters through the Prophet Muhammad, the entire ummah is governed by the divine law, or Sharia⁶. Sharia is applicable to all times and places and, therefore, transcends geographical boundaries and supersedes all other laws⁷.

Accordingly, Islam divides the world into two spheres: the house of Islam (dar-al-Islam) and the house of war (dar-al-harb)⁸. The house of Islam includes nations and territories that are under the control of Muslims and where Sharia law is the highest authority⁹. The house of war includes nations and territories that are under the control of non-Muslims and that do not submit to Sharia¹⁰. Consequently, there is constant conflict between the house of Islam and the house of war until the house of war is transformed into the house of Islam¹¹. According to them, the conflict will not end until all land is conquered for Allah¹², thereby establishing a single, global, Islamic State, also known as the Caliphate¹³.

The Caliphate is envisioned to be a unified, transnational government ruling over the entire Muslim Community, ummah¹⁴. It is to be governed pursuant to Sharia and enforced by a supreme leader, the Caliph¹⁵. Because Allah alone is the lawgiver, there is no place for a legislator; in Islam, human government only exists to enforce Allah's law¹⁶. The caliph's position is to administer and enforce the divine law. The caliph is seen as the "vicegerent of Allah upon earth, charged with the duty of judging righteously, i.e., of applying (Sharia), between men. This simply explains why the Nigerian Boko Haram group declared conquered territories as caliphates.

Accordingly, the "caliphate is the highest type of political organization on earth" and its subjects can derive their highest welfare through "absolute obedience to its ordinances. The ideal Islamic state is governed by the Sharia. The most common critique used by the fundamentalists is levelled at the governments of the Muslim world. They are accused of unjust rule, and worse still, of being illegitimate governments to create a legitimate government therefore, they (the terrorists) must take

⁵ Majid khadduri, war and peace in the law of islam 48 (lawbook exchange ed. 2010).

⁶ ibid

⁷ Majid khadduri, war and peace in the law of islam 48 (lawbook exchange ed. 2010). Pg 26

⁸ Ibid pg 156

⁹ Ibid, pg155

¹⁰ Ibid, pg170

¹¹ Ibid, pd 54

¹² Ibid, pg 64

¹³ Ibid, pg 16-17

¹⁴ Law In The Middle East 3 (Majid Khadduri & Herbert J. Liebesny eds., Lawbook Exchange ed., 2009).

¹⁵ Ibid, pg 14

¹⁶ Ibid, pg 3

over the affairs of the government. Jahiliyya refers to the idea of pre-Islamic societies ignorant of Islam. The ultimate goal for the Umma, as a religious community, is to implement religious law. This law is the Sharia, which is based on four Islamic sources: the Quran, the Sunna, the consensus of the Muslim community, and the scholars and Qiyas, or analogies.

The last source implies that solutions to current problems should be sought in similar precedent cases. Thus, the way towards the right answer is considerably influenced by early scriptural sources. The Sharia represents the basis of an ideal society, since this society is to be ruled by divine law and rules regarding religious and moral behaviour. It is the basis for a just social, moral, and religious order. The Sharia is an important concept for the fundamentalists, who seek to establish a Muslim society governed by divine law instead of secular ones, which are being rejected as they are claimed to be of no relevance to the Umma as a religious community.

With this ideology as a foundation for terrorism, we can conclude that since Muslims are found in almost all countries of the world, then these terrorist organisations are the number one enemy of global peace and security as they are not afraid to die. Religious terrorist believe strongly in martyrdom: if they die, they win, if they win, they succeed, they win. How do we threaten those who are not afraid to die and who see death as a blessing?

The Origin of The Islamic State Terrorist Group

The Islamic State terrorist group otherwise called ISIS began its existence as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). Al-Baghdadi ascended to leadership in AQI¹⁷. Before AQI became ISIS, and even before al-Baghdadi stepped into AQI leadership, Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri (i.e., the founder of Egyptian militant group Islamic Jihad¹⁸) had been criticising AQI¹⁹. Bin Laden and Zawahiri believed that AQI's attacks on fellow Muslims would erode public support for al-Qaeda in the region²⁰. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS, also known as ISIL) used to be known as Al Qaeda in Iraq. After the 2006 U.S. troop surge in Iraq seriously hampered the group's ability to carry out terrorist

¹⁷ Zachary Laub & Jonathan Masters, *Islamic State In Iraq And Greater Syria*, COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELS. (12 June 2014), <http://www.cfr.org/iraq/islamic-state-iraq-greater-syria/p14811>.

¹⁸ Al-Qaeda's Remaining Leaders, BBC NEWS <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11489337>.

¹⁹ English Translation Of Ayman Al-Zawahiri's Letter To Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, *The Weekly Standard* (12 Oct.2005), <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/006/203gpui.asp>.

²⁰ ibid

actions, ISIS reorganized and began to rebuild its strength.²¹ The organisation has a number of terrorist and their member seems to cut across nations of the world fighting for the same purpose.

In July 2005, Al Qaeda questioned AQI's strategy in written correspondence²². AQI disregarded al Qaeda's instruction to stop attacking Shia cultural sites, a move that ended AQI's relationship with al-Qaeda²³. In June 2006, a US air strike killed AQI's former leader. In its aftermath, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, an Egyptian-born explosives expert and former Zawahiri confidant, emerged as AQI's new leader"²⁴

In October 2006, al-Masri picked a new name for the militant organisation, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), in order to "increase the group's local appeal," which had suffered precisely as al-Qaeda had predicted, and "to embody its territorial ambitions"²⁵

In April 2013, another spat with al-Qaeda occurred. ISIS declared a merger with Jabhat al-Nusra, a Syrian al-Qaeda affiliate that has greater indigenous legitimacy than ISIS²⁶. But Zawahiri, the current al-Qaeda leader, annulled the merger, ruling that ISIS's operations be limited to Iraq²⁷. Although al-Baghdadi, as ISIS' leader, had pledged fealty to al-Qaeda, al-Baghdadi "rejected Zawahiri's ruling and questioned his authority".²⁸

Both Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who founded Jamaat al-Tawhid wa-l-Jihad (JTWJ) in 1999 and the al-Qaeda head Osama bin Laden came of age during the Afghan jihad against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, but their respective organizations have distinct genetic material, attributable in part to their different backgrounds, leadership styles, and aims. This is the case even though the two groups formed a marriage of convenience beginning in 2004. One key difference involves the socioeconomic background of the groups' founders. Whereas bin Laden and his cadre grew up in at least the upper middle class and had a university education, Zarqawi and those closest to him came from poorer, less educated backgrounds. Zarqawi's criminal past and extreme views on takfir (accusing another

²¹ Gil Kaufman/MTV News/ 8.21.2014

²² ibid

²³ Zachary Laub & Jonathan Masters, *Islamic State In Iraq And Greater Syria*, COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELS. (12 June2014), <http://www.cfr.org/iraq/islamic-state-iraq-greater-syria/p14811>.

²⁴ ibid

²⁵ ibid

²⁶ ibid

²⁷ ibid

²⁸ ibid

Muslim of heresy and thereby justifying his killing) created major friction and distrust with bin Laden when the two first met in Afghanistan in 1999.²⁹

In April 2013, the leader of al-Qa'ida in Iraq, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, released an audio message³⁰ in which he announced that Jabhat al-Nusra was merging with the Islamic State of Iraq, which was an alias for al-Qa'ida in Iraq, to form a new armed group, the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (known in Arabic as al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham). Between 1999 and 2004, the group adopted the name, Jamaat al-Tawhid wa-l-Jihad (JTWJ) and by 2004, it took another name, al-Qaeda in the Land of Two Rivers (more popularly known as al-Qaeda in Iraq, or AQI). By 2006, it took another name, Majlis Shura al-Mujahedin (MSM) and between 2006 and 2013 it adopted Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) a name which was later dropped for Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS³¹).

Forms of Attacks by ISIS

ISIS has emerged as the most ruthless of the Sunni jihadist organisations in Iraq and Syria. ISIS is so extreme that other well-known, radical Islamist and jihadist groups have not only distanced themselves from ISIS but have also publicly condemned ISIS actions³².

Because al-Qaeda only committed terrorist attacks against Western and Arab governments, it condemned ISIS for killing Muslim civilians and “for waging war on other Muslims”³³. Al-Qaeda, consequently, disclaimed all ties with ISIS, claiming ISIS actions were damaging to the revolution³⁴. As a result, ISIS regularly attacks al Nusra, as well as civilian supporters of al-Nusra³⁵. Due to the infighting between the rebel groups, the death toll is estimated to be in the thousands³⁶.

ISIS jihadists commit violence against fellow Muslims in violation of Islamic law; they routinely commit war crimes and engage in torture in violation of international law; and they issue threats to Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities. What makes ISIS especially dangerous is that, not only

²⁹ Aaron Y. Zelin, “The War between ISIS and al-Qaeda for Supremacy of the Global Jihadist Movement”, Research Notes, The Washington Institute For Near East Policy, Number 2013 — June 2014

³⁰ Audio message by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akolFvzpXTI>; it was uploaded on YouTube on 8 April 2013 and last accessed 27 September 2014.

³¹ Aaron Y. Zelin, “The War between ISIS and al-Qaeda for Supremacy of the Global Jihadist Movement”, Research Notes, The Washington Institute For Near East Policy, Number 2013 — June 2014

³² Knickmeyer, *Al Qaeda ‘Disavows’ Syrian Terror Group For Being Too Terrorist*, WALL ST. J. (3 Feb. 2014), <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304851104579361041928884318>

³³ Ben Hubbard, *ISIS Threatens Al Qaeda As Flagship Movement Of Extremists*, N.Y. TIMES (30 June 2014), <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/world/middleeast/isis-threatens-al-Qaeda-as-flagship-movement> ofextremists.html.

³⁴ *Al-Qaeda Disavows ISIS Militants In Syria*, BBC NEWS, (3 Feb. 2014), <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middleeast-26016318>.

³⁵ *Profile: Islamic State In Iraq And The Levant (ISIS)*, BBC NEWS (16 June 2014), <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24179084>.

³⁶ ibid

are ISIS leaders and fighters ruthless, but they also have obtained sufficient material assets to support a standing military force and they possess the will to use weapons of mass destruction to carry out their fanatical aims.

On July 17, 2014, an 18-year-old Australian suicide bomber killed three people outside a Shi'a mosque in downtown Baghdad. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility. The Australian government said that the bomber was from Melbourne.³⁷ In the areas they control, ISIS forces have committed numerous serious rights abuses, including some that amount to war crimes; they include abductions, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and unlawful killings. In Syria, they are reported to have been responsible for a number of bombings of targets in government-held areas, some of which caused civilian deaths and injuries, to have assassinated commanders of other armed opposition groups, such as the Free Syrian Army (FSA), and to have tortured and executed captured members of rival armed groups³⁸. As it has grown in strength, ISIS has increasingly clashed with other armed opposition groups and a key Kurdish opposition party, the Democratic Union Party (known by its Kurdish initials of PYD) over the months following its declared formation. ISIS has engaged in fierce fighting with the al-Farouq Brigades and in August 2013 fought against the Ahfad al-Rassoul (Grandsons of the Prophet) Brigades when taking full control of al-Raqqa city. In September, ISIS forces fought against members of Liwa 'Assefat al-Shemal (the Northern Storm Battalion), another armed group, in A'zaz, close to the Syria-Turkey border. Most recently, in December 2013, ISIS forces clashed with fighters belonging to Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiya (Ahrar al-Sham Islamic Movement) in Aleppo.³⁹ They have recently beheaded an American reporter and a British reporter.

Strength of the Group

They reportedly include individuals with previous experience in armed conflicts in Chechnya and Iraq and militants drawn from a range of countries including Tunisia and Morocco in North Africa and states in the Gulf, as well as Syrian fighters. They claim to advocate a strict form of Shari'a rule and use extreme force to impose it in areas that they control or where they are present. ISIS reportedly executed an ISIS reportedly executed another parade in Hawijah on June 26, 2014.⁴⁰ These

³⁷ Reuters, July 17; Australian Broadcasting Corporation, July 21

³⁸ Amnesty International Briefing, "Rule Of Fear: Isis Abuses In Detention In Northern Syria", Ai Index: Mde 24/063/2013, 19 December 2013

³⁹ AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING, "RULE OF FEAR: ISIS ABUSES IN DETENTION IN NORTHERN SYRIA", AI INDEX: MDE 24/063/2013, 19 DECEMBER 2013

⁴⁰ Jessica D. Lewis, "ISIS battle plan for Baghdad", Institute For The Study Of War, June 27, 2014.

parades may be a demonstration of force to reinforce their control of these urban centres. They may also be a prelude to ISIS troop movements, and it is important to anticipate where ISIS may deploy these forces forward. Meanwhile, ISIS also renewed the use of suicide bombers in the vicinity of Baghdad. An ISIS bomber with a suicide vest (SVEST) attacked the Kadhimiyah shrine in northern Baghdad on June 26, 2014.⁴¹

Although no one knows how many fighters ISIS has, but some estimates have put their numbers at 15,000 or more, with up to three times that number available to fight if necessary. Their increasingly brutal, brazen attacks and tactics have raised alarms that they could have their sights on expanding their operations beyond Iraq and Syria.⁴² It is evident from the modes of operations and manner of gruesome attacks of ISIS that the group is likely to be more powerful than the al Qaeda. al Qaeda broke ties with ISIS in February after Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri became frustrated with ISIS's refusal to heed his orders to kill fewer Syrian civilians. At the end of the "Breaking the Walls" campaign in July 2013, the newly expanded ISIS successfully broke 500 prisoners from Abu ghraib prison.⁴³

The group is expanding its reach on the long border between Iraq and Syria, where the combination of the Syrian civil war and a weak government in Iraq has allowed ISIS to expand. Just like terrorist organisations in other parts of the world including Nigeria where a weak government and religious and ethnic divide has helped in the growth of the Boko Haram insurgent group.

ISIS also regenerated the capacity to execute a combined arms attack against a fixed site, such as a prison. In September 2012, ISIS achieved its first victory on this front, breaking 38 former AQI leaders from Tikrit Tasfirat prison.⁴⁴ A year before ISIS emir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the expansion of the Islamic State of Iraq into al-Sham, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) had regenerated the capacity to sustain a nation-wide campaign of Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive device (VBIEd) attacks through ample human and material resources. ISI leadership at that time organized VBIEds into waves of simultaneous attacks, demonstrating effective command and control over a distributed ground force. The VBIEd attacks concentrated first in eastern Iraq, in the Hamrin ridge corridor

⁴¹ "Urgent..martyrdom and injury of 43 people, the explosion of an explosive belt near the Hadra Kazimiyah,"] All Iraq news, June 26, 2014, available online at <http://alliraqnews.com/index.php/201104-18-02-59> 24/137194--43

⁴² Gil Kaufman/MTV News/ 8.21.2014

⁴³ Jessica lewis, "AQI's 'Breaking the Walls' campaign Achieves its objectives at Abu ghraib," July 28, 2013, available online at <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2013/07/al-qaeda-in-iraqs-breaking-walls.html>.

⁴⁴ 11. Jessica lewis, "AQI Resurgent, Parts I & II," ISW, September – october 2013, available online at http://understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/JessVBIEd_PartII_3oct.pdf and http://understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/AQI-Resurgent-10Sept_0.pdf

leading to northern Diyala, demonstrating a renewed presence in a historic support zone near where Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been killed in 2006.⁴⁵

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's tenure has also seen ISIS develop its own distinctive style of command and control. During the "Breaking the Walls" campaign (July 2012-July 2013), the then-ISI demonstrated and repeatedly exercised its re-centralized command and control system in 20 multi-city synchronized car bombing waves, a sequence of attacks that continued until the end of 2013.

The bombings illustrated al-Baghdadi's formula of centralized control but decentralized execution. On July 9, 2014, U.S. Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel warned that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) should not be underestimated. According to Hagel, ISIS is a serious threat to the United States. "This is a force that is sophisticated," he said. "It's dynamic. It is organized. It is well financed. It's competent."⁴⁶

Objectives of ISIS

The insurgent militia is bent on creating a Sunni Islamic state — or caliphate — in the region through the use of extreme violence against its perceived enemies. They have targeted the Iraqi government and American forces in Iraq, as well as Shia Muslims and Christians and, increasingly, civilians of all faiths in unpredictable, violent attacks that include beheadings and suicide bombings.⁴⁷ ISIS seeks to create an Islamic Emirate that overcomes the modern states of Iraq and Syria. The Syrian war began without ISIS, but ISIS succeeded in instigating a sectarian war in Iraq in order to destabilize the state. This objective seemed to have been adopted by the Nigerian Boko Haram and other terrorist organisations since ISIS seeks to promulgate its doctrine through religious divide in any nation.

Funding of The Group

ISIS doesn't depend on foreign funds to survive, but instead they've hoarded millions due to the theft and the sale of oil from areas they've overrun. The group is reported to have pulled off the biggest bank heist in history, allegedly lifting more than \$430 million from a Mosul bank after overrunning that Iraqi city. They have also reportedly extorted money from humanitarian workers and have been selling electricity back to the Syrian government they are fighting against. The group has also

⁴⁵ Jessica Lewis, "The Islamic State of Iraq Returns to diyala," ISW, April 2014, available online at <http://understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/lewis-diyala.pdf>.

⁴⁶ Voice of America, July 9

⁴⁷ Gil Kaufman/MTV News/ 8.21.2014

bragged of stealing millions of dollars in U.S. military equipment, making it one of the world's most well funded terrorist groups.⁴⁸

According to Reuters, On July 3, 2014, The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant seized control of Syria's largest oil field, al Omar, from Jabhat al-Nusra. Jabhat al-Nusra took control of the field in November 2013, and claimed to be producing around 10,000 barrels of oil per day.⁴⁹

Under al-Baghdadi's leadership, ISIS gained considerable financial clout. ISIS previously relied on donations from wealthy individuals in the Gulf Arab states who were supporting ISIS in the Syrian conflict. ISIS now has cash and assets of its own. Al-Baghdadi has secured two primary revenue streams: oil sales from ISIS-controlled oil fields in Syria and sales of antiquities from looted historical sites. ISIS accumulated cash and assets worth an estimated two billion dollars. When ISIS overran Mosul, Iraq, ISIS forces looted banks of cash and precious metals.

Possible Connections With Other Terrorist Organisations

On August 7, 2011, a few months after Bin Laden's death, ISI spokesman Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Adnani praised Zawahiri's appointment as al Qaeda's new leader: "I also send sincere greetings to the honourable sheikh, the reputable instructor, the experienced leader, the wise of the ummah, Shaykh Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri. We beseech God to bless him and his recent position of leadership. We ask God to help him with the charge entrusted to him, and to guide him to what pleases Him."⁵⁰

In April 2013, overt enmity between ISIS and al Qaeda broke out in full when ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced that he was extending the Islamic State of Iraq into Syria and changing the group's name to the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham.⁵¹ He also noted an open secret that ISIS and JN were one and the same. This did not sit well with JN leader Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, who rebuffed the move into Syria and reaffirmed his allegiance to Zawahiri.⁵²

⁴⁸ Gil Kaufman/MTV News/ 8.21.2014

⁴⁹ Reuters, July 3

⁵⁰ Shaykh Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, "The State of Islam Will Remain Safe," al-Furqan Media, August 7, 2011, <http://washin.st/1sG2rIP>.

⁵¹ Shaykh Abu Bakr al-Hussayni al-Qurayshi al-Baghdadi, "Announcement of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham," al-Furqan Media, April 9, 2013, <http://washin.st/1yS3JB1>.

⁵² Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, "About the Fields of al-Sham," al-Manarah al-Bayda Foundation for Media Production, April 10, 2013, <http://jihadology.net/2013/04/10/al-manarah-al-bayda-foundation-for-media-production-presents-a-newaudio-message-from-jabhat-al-nu%e1%b9%a3rahsabu-mu%e1%b8%a5ammad-al-jawlani-al-golaniabout-the-fields-of-al-sham/>.

On July 13, 2014, In a new video, Boko Haram chief Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for two attacks that occurred on June 25, one of which was a bombing in Lagos. In late January 2014, some AQAP fighters in Syria have in their own capacity backed ISIS, including as expressed by the AQAP leader Hatim al-Mamun.⁵³ Nigerian authorities previously said that the explosion in Lagos was a result of a cooking gas explosion, but Shekau accused them of trying to cover up the attack. In the video, Shekau also expressed support for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.⁵⁴

A breakaway faction of nine individuals in al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, including Maqdisi's brother and some other relevant leaders, pledged *baya* to Baghdadi in early April 2014.⁵⁵ This forced one of al-Qaeda's ideologues, Abu Amir al-Naji, to respond in late May 2014 that the nine-person letter made false claims against al- Qaeda.⁵⁶

On July 2, 2014, U.S. authorities arrested Adam Dandach at Orange County's John Wayne Airport, as the suspect allegedly told federal agents that he was trying to reach Syria to help the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. Dandach, also known as Fadi Fadi Dandach, also allegedly said that the killing of U.S. soldiers is justified.⁵⁷

On July 26, 2014, Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qa`ida's affiliate in Syria, released a video of an American suicide bomber who blew himself up at a Syrian army post in May 2014. The man, Moner Mohammad Abu Salha, is believed to be the first U.S. national to conduct a suicide bombing in Syria. It was also revealed that after training with Jabhat al-Nusra, Salha returned to the United States for months before travelling back to Syria to conduct his suicide attack.

⁵³ Hatim al-Mamun, "Support for the Islamic State," YouTube video, 24:42, April 10, 2014, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiO_ofqKztc.

⁵⁴ Michael Knights, "ISIL's Political-Military Power in Iraq", Combating Terrorism Center, august 2014 . Vol 7 . Issue 8

⁵⁵ "Ila al-Dhin taabu wa Aslalu wa baynu," April 9, 2014, <http://alfetn.net/vb3/showthread.php?t=82569>.

⁵⁶ Abu Amir al-Naji, "Commenting on the Statement 'Except for Those Who Repent, Correct Themselves, or Make Evident [What They Concealed],''" *As-Sahab Media*, May 28, 2014, <http://washin.st/Ty5kva>.

⁵⁷ Los Angeles Times, July 18

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, we can agree that international terrorism has become more dangerous than it was years ago. Their strategies have really changed and more threat is posed to global peace and security than ever before. The Islamic State Terrorist group has shown that the course of terrorism over the next few decades cannot be predicted, just as the actual evolution of terrorism over the last 30 years could probably not have been predicted.

It must be recalled that, terrorists do not mind the intensity of the damages they cause. They can assassinate heads of government, like witnessed in the terrorist assassinations of the former prime minister of Italy, the former president of Argentina, the presidents of Lebanon and Egypt, two prime ministers in India, and one in Israel; and the attempted assassinations of the pope and the heads of government of Pakistan, Egypt, and the United Kingdom and the killing of people in hundreds and abduction of large number of people as witnessed recently in Nigeria.

We can see hundreds of bombings going on everywhere in the world, plane high-jacking, US military retaliation against terrorism, detention of reporters, killing of hundreds of children, invading of sovereign nations by terrorists, killing of kings and important personalities, with these happening everywhere in the world, the extent to which terrorists can go should never be underestimated and the strength of any nation to combat terrorists should never be overestimated. The whole world; every peace-loving nation must join hands together to fight terrorism as an international plague as no one can precisely predict where the pendulum will swing in a matter of years.

In terms of the policy lessons, one crucial goal of anti-terrorism policy must be the containment of violent conflict around the globe. However, recent experience suggests that direct military intervention can be counter-productive. Moreover, the close monitoring of world-wide financing operations might be an important way to counter terrorism. Another, unrelated, policy suggestion offered is for further investments in technology. Investment is needed to close the gap between what is technologically feasible and the effective disruption and containment of the activities of terrorist groups worldwide.

Recommendations

In fighting ISIS and other international terrorist organisations to maintain international peace and security, I will recommend as follows:

- Governments of Syria and Iraq must accept a shared responsibility to investigate and prosecute war crimes and other crimes under international law committed in Syria and elsewhere in the world. In particular, seek to exercise universal jurisdiction over these crimes before national courts in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty.
- The government of Syria must call on states to suspend arms transfers to ISIS and other armed groups implicated in the commission of war crimes and serious human rights abuses.
- The Syrian government should refer the situation in Syria to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to serve as deterrent.
- The Government of Syria should take effective measures to prevent the transfer of financial or material support to ISIS and other armed groups alleged to be committing war crimes and serious human rights abuses in Syria.
- The Syrian government should immediately and unconditionally, release all detainees held on account of their peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression or other human rights.
- The United States and the actors of world politics should understand that effectively coping with the phenomenon of terrorism requires local and international action on two levels – addressing both terrorists' motivation and their operational capabilities. It is a state's responsibility and duty to protect its citizens, and so it must work to reduce terrorist organizations' operational capabilities through preventative and offensive action (and sometimes also defensive action) based on intelligence resources.
- The governments of the world should understand that establishing an alliance of countries that share the common goal of effectively countering global terrorism would be one step in creating a broad-based and international response to terrorism. Such an alliance could reflect the NATO model, but, unlike NATO would include third-world, Arab and Muslim states in addition to Western countries for effectiveness.
- The UN must make efforts to eradicate radical Islamic terrorism and encourage democracy in the Muslim world should start with a long and thorough stage of pragmatic liberal education and legal restrictions on incitement to violence and terrorism. Such efforts can take place both within Muslim countries and internally in western states with large Muslim communities.

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