INTERNATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION –
GLOBAL VIEW

Recenzent Milan PODHOREC

Abstract
This paper deals with international cooperation in the sphere of counterterrorism. This issue is presented through selected – and from the point of view of the authors the crucial - international organizations with world-wide scope of operation. It also includes a brief description scope of their activities within the war on terror. This overview presents mainly specific counterterrorist components of individual organizations (e.g. committees or working groups) and most important related conventions. However, primarily the presented analysis of international cooperation concentrates on the period after the attacks of September 11, 2001 in the United States of America that meant a breaking point in intensifying joint actions in this sphere.

Introduction

After the scope of terrorist activities grew beyond borders of individual national states and strengthened its ambitions using international cooperation, international cooperation in combating terrorism has become necessary. It has become the only effective instrument in combating state-sponsored terrorism (state terrorism) for individuals or small groups have insufficient resources to support international terrorism. In addition, without external pressure, mainly through joint military action of NATO nations, it is impossible to eliminate terrorism in states that support it either actively or passively.

According to O. Krejčí1) today’s war on terror can be viewed as priority number one especially of great powers. Events of September 11th, 2001 substantially changed international situation that has evolved since the end of the cold war. After this date, terrorism has started to be viewed as a global security threat. New priorities in foreign policy of many nations have emerged followed with efforts aimed at coordination of individual national policies.

International counterterrorism cooperation is here further presented using activities of selected international organizations. However, it is necessary to notice that there are more super- or international organizations and institutions dealing with combating terrorism, especially after the events of September 11th, 2001. Due to their high number, this article is limited to introduction of the most important ones only.

1 The United Nations Organization

Initial attempts to eliminate terrorism in global scale have appeared already in the 30’s of the last century when the United Nations has the first international body – proposed two counter-terrorism conventions (1937). One condemned terrorist activities like attempts on lives of heads of states or other national representatives and their families. It also outlawed acts of international terrorism, including actual bodily harms or damage on property caused by citizens of a nation against citizens of another nation. The second convention was a constituting document of the International Criminal Court and contained legal interpretation of terrorist crimes. Nevertheless, these two daring steps had little effect for the conventions were ratified by only 13 nations. It was the time right before the outbreak of the World War Two.

In following years, UN bodies discussed terrorism minimally and rather sporadically. However, the year 1972 meant a significant changeover when after assassination during Olympic Games in Munich the UN Secretary General K. Waldheim raised the issue of terrorism within the agenda of the UN General Assembly session held in September of the same year. The issue was discussed and subsequently passed to the Sixth Committee. Its activities resulted in adoption of the Resolution No. 3034 addressing Measures preventing International Terrorism, dates December 18th, 1972.

During the years 1973 through 2000 several important counter-terrorism conventions had been issued and ratified. Today, these can be classified as UN conventions held by the UN Secretary General, multilateral conventions held in other depositaries and regional conventions applicable to terrorism.

Immediately after the attacks against US targets on September 11th, 2001, the UN Security Council passed unanimously the Resolution No. which besides a number of other measures binds member nations to incriminate nations or individuals supporting terrorist activities, deny financial support and asylum to terrorists and prohibits providing of information on groups planning terrorist attacks. Upon adoption of their resolution, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has been established as the fifteenth UN body to monitor the Resolution implementation. The Committee goal is to increase capabilities of member nations in their war on terror. However it is no decision-making body and similarly, it does no deal with gathering information on terrorist organizations and individuals involved.

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3) The Sixth Committee is on of the main bodies of the UN General Assembly and deals with legal matters.
4) Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms, and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes. [cit. February 21st, 2007]. United Nations. [on-line]. Available on WWW: [http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/27/ares3034(xxvii).pdf].
To support the Committee activities, in March 2004 the UN Security Council has passed its Resolution No. 1535\(^8\), which has established the **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate**, mission of which is providing expert consultancy to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in all areas contained in the Resolution No. 1373. The Executive Directorate has been established also in order to streamline expert support to individual countries and to strengthen mutual cooperation and coordination both inside the UN system and other regional and intergovernmental bodies.

During the world summit of the United Nations Organization in September 2005, the Security Council has passed the Resolution No. 1624\(^9\) concerning instigation to acts of terrorism. This Resolution has also underlined commitments of individual nations to comply with international human rights.

An important step in the war on terror was releasing of the document known as **Recommendations for a Global Counter-terrorism Strategy**\(^{10}\), approved during the 60\(^{th}\) session of the UN General Assembly on April 27\(^{th}\), 2006. This document contains proposals of critical counterterrorist activities of the UN that are focused mainly on assets used by terrorists to attack, funding issues and terrorism elimination as well as defining human rights in the context of terrorism. Concluding part of this document describes currently valid international conventions related to preventing and eliminating international terrorism.

To continuously strengthen and intensify counter-terrorist activities and efforts of member nations, on September 8\(^{th}\), 2006, UN General Assembly has passed the **Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**.\(^{11}\) This Strategy, consisting of a resolution and action plan, is a unique instrument increasing national, regional and global counter-terrorism efforts. In fact, it is the first document ever, in which all 192 member nations have agreed on common strategic counter-terrorism approach and decided to prevent and eliminate terrorism, especially through strengthening national support and improved coordination of UN counter-terrorism activities. Adopting the Strategy has meant meeting of the objective set within the UN Summit in September 2005 and recommendations for global counter-terrorism strategy passed in April 2006.

### 2 The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

One of important areas where NATO besides others concentrates its efforts is the area of non-military security threats, including espionage, terrorism, proliferation of mass destruction weapons and others. A special advisory body of NATO has been established to monitor this area\(^{12}\) (NATO Special Committee AC/46). The Committee consists mainly of civilian counter-intelligence services. For instance, the Czech Republic Security

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Information Service represents the entire Czech intelligence community in the Committee and since the Czech Republic joined NATO it has been participating in activities. The Special Committee closely cooperates with other NATO bodies and institutions, including the North Atlantic Council, NATO Secretary General, NATO Office of Security and pertinent bodies and institutions in those nations that have established various special relations with NATO. The NATO Special Committee is chaired always by one on member nations’ services based on the principle of annual rotation. Its mission then is to control activities of the Committee, draft its yearly agenda, organize its implementation and implementation of continuous tasks resulting from its statute and control activities of specialized working groups.

Upon the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11th, 2001, NATO held a conference on combating terrorism in Warsaw. Thereafter, on December 18th, 2001, defense ministers of NATO nations instructed NATO military agencies to prepare a proposal of the **NATO’s Military Concept for Defence against Terrorism** and submit it to approval of the NATO Council.

Terrorist attacks against the United States have been implicitly condemned also by EAPC nations during their session on September 12th, 2001 when they adopted a declaration binding member states to actively support combating threats of terrorism. To do so, on February 22nd and 23rd, 2002 the **Major EAPC Seminar on Combating Terrorism** was held in Warsaw (**Role of EAPC in Combating Terrorism**). This seminar was focused on identifying new potential tasks for EAPC within counter-terrorism. It put together leading experts and researchers not just from EAC member states and NATO offices and military agencies but also from other international organizations, e.g. UN, OSCE or EU.

The NATO counter-terrorism concept has been passed by the North-Atlantic Council first and then by adopted by the top representatives of individual nations during the NATO Summit in Prague (**Prague Summit 21-22 November 2002**) held on November 21st and 22nd, 2002. During the Prague NATO Summit, nations have also adopted the **Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism** (**Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism**), focused on fulfilling commitments related to counterterrorism in accordance with international law. When designing the action plan, nations had been aware that combating terrorism requires mutual and primarily consistent efforts on international level and were determined to support this efforts based on effective cooperation throughout the EAPC structure. At the same time, nations had committed themselves to take all steps to prevent and eliminate terrorism while respecting generally recognized rules and principles of international law, in particular the UN Charter and the UN Security Resolution No. 1373.

During the year 2002, NATO held another important counter-terrorism conference - **International Conference on Terrorism (Vienna, June 13th through 14th, 2002)**. Its main

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topic covered political and strategic processes in the Near and Middle East. Special attention was paid to individual threats of terrorism, role of military forces in combating terrorism and possibilities of specific forms of cooperation in counterterrorism. In following years, NATO held further conferences always aimed at certain particular area of counterterrorism. Cyber-terrorism was discussed in March 2003, NBC weapons in January 2004 and possible solutions of terrorism issues in May 2005. Counterterrorism has been annually examined within special EAPC meetings. A good example is the Madrid session of foreign ministers of NATO with participation of EAPC members (June 2nd and 4th, 2003), meeting of emergency management experts held by the NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) on May 24th through 26th, 2004 in Dubrovnik, Croatia or the first EAPC security forum ever held Are, Sweden on Amy 24th and 25th, 2005.

In the term of May 6th and 7th, 2004 the first Conference of National Armaments Directors – CNAD was organized within the NATO meeting.18) The meeting putting together all ANTO nations focused mainly on counterterrorism. Its key output was presenting a set of projects leading to increasing Alliance capabilities in protecting population and military troops against terrorist attacks. The conference has also formulated a proposal of a counterterrorism program defining ten areas with the highest chance for success. The Defense Against Terrorism Program - DAT19) was adopted by top representatives of NATO nations at the Istanbul Summit as a part of , an extended set of measures leading to strengthening Alliance position in combating terrorism (June 28th and 29th, 2004). Besides others, this summit has once again stressed the importance of EAPC support to combating terrorism.

On December 9th, 2004, just few months after terrorist attacks in Russian Beslan, a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council took place in Brussels at the level of ministers of foreign affairs, which has approved the NATO-Russia Action Plan on Terrorism20) that has become a guide line of following efforts in all aspects of combating terrorism. It has outlined bases of increasing potentialities of Russia and NATO in joint talks and actions in the three critical areas that include terrorism prevention, combating terrorist activities and managing impacts of terrorist acts.

The most recent important step in counter-terrorism was done in 2006 when the NATO Counter-Terrorism Technology Development Program – NCTDP has been launched.21) It rests in a web service provided by the Assistant Secretary General for Defense Investment – ASG/DI in cooperation with the NATO C3 Agency – NC3A to streamline rapid spreading of urgent requests of any of NATO nations. The fundamental idea of the program is making use of Internet capabilities in accelerating joint actions and more effective procedures.

3 International Criminal Police Organization

In the sphere of public security and counterterrorism, Interpol coordinates the I-24/7 police communication system\(^{22}\) that serves to inform and warn security forces of member states regarding terrorists, dangerous criminals and threats of use of weapons. The Fusion Task Force – FTF,\(^{23}\) represents the key coordination element of this system. FTF has been formed in September 2002, immediately after the anxious momentum and sophistication of terrorist attacks.

The primary goals of the task force are:
- Identifying active terrorist groups and their members;
- Gathering, processing and sharing information;
- Providing analytical support;
- Enhancing capabilities of member states in combating terrorism and organized crime.

The continuously carry out tasks related to the second above stated goal, the task force asks member states to submit reports on all crimes that can be connected with terrorism, like suspicious financial transactions, illegal trade in arms, money laundering, falsification of travel documents or possession of nuclear, biological or chemical materials. For this purpose, an implementation directive has been issued specifying types of information required.

Furthermore, four Regional Task Forces have been established in regions considered especially inclined to terrorist activities, indicated as Project Pacific (Southeast Asia), Project Kalkan (Central Asia), Project Amazon (South America) and Project Baobab (Africa). A direct aim of forming these task forces was to increase the number of police forces personnel in these regions in order to launch region specific initiatives and enhance effectiveness of task forces in these regions.

FTF regional activities are supported mainly with two global initiatives - Project Passage and Project Tent. The Project Passage aim is to interrupt movements of terrorist organizations across national borders. It is focused especially on groups of organized crime that provide logistic support to members of terrorist organizations (e.g. in the form of identification or travel documents). Another global initiative is the Project Tent, aim of which is identifying individual who have visited terrorist training camps and transmitting this information to countries of residence of these individuals.

Under global counterterrorism initiatives, Interpol carries out additional four working projects,\(^{24}\) defined in cooperation with member states. These are:
- Project IWETS – Interpol Weapons and Electronic Tracking System;
- Project Geiger – stolen radiological materials and radiological terrorism;
- Project CRIT – Co-operative Radiological Instrument Transfer;
- Project on Bio-Terrorism.

\(^{22}\) Interpol’s global police communications system I-24/7. [cit. February 7\(^{th}\), 2007]. Interpol. [on-line]. Available on WWW: [http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/FactSheets/GI03.pdf].


Interpol also provides assistance to member states in cases when a terrorist attack occurs on their territory. After an attack, member states can request support of the Interpol Incident Response Team (IRT) that subsequently in cooperation with the Secretariat general provides investigation and analytical support on site. This support includes issuing of international notice of terrorists in request, database enquiries regarding fingerprints or suspicious travel documents, expert opinion in the area of money laundering or assistance in identification of attack victims.

Last but not least, it is necessary to mark out that within counterterrorist efforts Interpol has issued 13 significant resolutions. The Cairo Declaration against Terrorism, approved by the General Assembly on the 67th Interpol session in Cairo on October 22nd through 27th, 1998, has been probably the most important one.

Conclusion

Today’s security environment is characterized with a raise of signs of international terrorism. As a result of general perception of the threat of terrorism, responses of individual states when suppressing this trend represent one of the key priorities of national security policies. Cooperation and development of a joint effort approach is reflected in establishment of international organizations and agencies that are to enable mutual dialogue and create a forum for unifying individual national procedures in a joint one and defining additional relevant steps. As resulting from its general position, the crucial body in counterterrorism is the United Nations Organization and its special agencies and committees. However, role of individual organizations in international relations shall always reflect real support by states involved, measured as allocated financial, material and human resources. Regarding the fact that current security environment is characterized with a high number of security threats, further promotion and development of cooperation and joint activities using international organizations can be viewed vital to succeed in the war on terror.

Bibliography


