United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

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Introduction

The image of terrorists to, stereotypically, be foreigners from a disadvantaged, marginalized country with less access to education as is common in western societies as well as the belief of terrorists solely striking at western societies from even those countries, is fading in consideration of the events in the past years and the changes involved concerning the community of religious fundamentalists. These include an increase of terrorists born and resident in western countries, regarding to which the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15 2013 can be referred to as an example, as well as an increase in youth radicalization in western Europe as well as North America which is one of the most important threats of international terrorism. It includes young people as well as many minors who suffer from social isolation and the thereby coherent disenchantment, often due to their religion or ethnic background of their family, and are therefore in search of their own identity as well as acceptance among society and a purpose in life. Due to these struggles they are more sensitive to ideological discourse than teenagers and young adults from a socially more accepted background would be. Religious fundamentalist organisations offer them exactly what they are searching for: A social purpose. This apparent chance to reinvent oneself is what eventually draws them into extremist movements involved in violent conflict and war, for example in Syria and Iraq, as well as in the organisation and carrying out of terrorist attacks all over the world. Preventing especially youth radicalization is therefore a very difficult challenge this committee has to face, as it has to be accomplished on a global scale and requires cooperation of a majority of nations.

Background

The roots of international terrorism can be followed back into the 1960s and 70s where the conflict between Israel and Palestine first arose due to the colonial era and the following post-colonial attempts at state formation which failed, resulting in the random formation of Israel and the associated wars and conflicts between Israel and the Arab world, especially Palestine. These tensions resulted in the formation of several radical Palestinian extremist groups who eventually moved away from the typical rural-based warfare and toward more urban terrorism also taking advantage of modern communication systems in order to internalize their struggle. Resulting in a series of hijackings, kidnappings, bombings and shootings, including the attacks on Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympic games, these new forms of war mark the beginnings of modern international terrorism and can therefore also be seen as the starting point of radicalisation in the modern world, as these groups served as a model for numerous ethnic and religious movements. As a result, the Palestinians had created an extensive transnational extremist network by the end of the 1970s, functioning as a major channel for the spreading of terrorist techniques worldwide. With the formation of ISIS in 1999 (originally known as Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, the name change occurred in 2014) a new era of terrorism had started, also including extensive youth radicalization with ISIS being the main promoter of this development. As ISIS gained more power in the middle east at the end of 2015, holding a large area extending from western Iraq to eastern Syria and was also operating in 18 countries across the world, the

terror group also made forays into western societies aiming to reach young males and radicalize them in order to convince them to join the organization and work for their fundamentalist purpose to return to an ontological form of Islam that rejects modernity. The youth targeted for this were and are most commonly second-generation Muslims born and raised in western Europe or North America or recent converts to Islam as they have the freedom to travel internationally without being subjected to rigorous visa requirements. These young men tend to turn to extremism as they feel marginalized in the society they live in. In their eyes they are not granted the opportunities their fellow white citizens have in life which therefore leads to frustration and resentment. Society although, also plays a huge role in the isolation of these young males and can therefore be named one of the main reasons for youth radicalization. Especially in western Europe so-called parallel societies, meaning immigrants from the same country live in a common neighborhood, separated from the rest of society, are quite widespread, resulting in these parts of cities an its residents to not be fully accepted by the rest of society and rather be looked down upon. Failed integration therefore, is one of the main causes for youth radicalization.

Process of Radicalization

As already stated, the process of radicalization often begins during teenage years, when the individual is looking for a cause and a stronger Muslim identity as they're hoping to find a purpose in the religion. Instead, they're rather increasingly finding the answers they're looking for in the ideology of radical Islam, even though many are known to be rather secular and sceptic before entering the radicalization process. Research shows, that individuals don't usually radicalize by themselves, but rather in groups such as among friends or peers and that as well as that another important factor might be the presence of a charismatic person who delivers persuasive speeches and whose sole goal is to reach young and confused individuals, in order to convince them of the ideology of radical Islam. Those speeches are not only held in mosques, but also in schools, universities as well as prisons, because young people, just as incarcerated individuals often seek a purpose in life and feel betrayed and abandoned by the society they live in. They therefore make the perfect victim for Islamic fundamentalists. As well as that, many young potential radicals don't know a lot about their country's history or their religion in general, as most of them have not read the Quran themselves and therefore believe the interpretations presented to them by extremists. Another important factor that plays in the hands of religious fundamentalists are the new connection systems as well as communication programmes, such as social media. Virtual networks online as well as chatrooms where youth can find the attention and acceptance they lack from society, create a social network of potential jihadists who not only put themselves in the hands of radicals and so contribute to a terrorist network, but also help to recruit others who are in the same situation they're in. social media can therefore be used as a reinforcement to other means of communication as it is possible for the recruiters of extremist groups to reach a larger audience of potential targets as well as expanding their reach geographically with less effort for the recruiters. Social networks such as twitter, facebook and youtube therefore are very attractive for perpetrators as large amounts of youth can be targeted at once. It is generally the case that the internet plays a large role in the recruitment of young adults as not only social media, but also other means including texts, instant messages, forums and chatrooms can be used to identify and target potential

recruitments. In 2014 ISIS also released an app, updating its users on tweets, links, hashtags, images, videos and comments published on ISIS social media sites. It was detected and removed from the google android system shortly after. But not only are social media networks such as twitter used to recruit new jihadists, posting on these sites also serves the purpose of spreading fear and anxiety among the rest of societies. Twitter pages and accounts linked to ISIS include the al-I´tisam page as well as several accounts such as @Minbar_s, @hashtag_isis, @mghol1122, @Nnewsi, @alfurqan2013, @raqqa98, @w_raqqa, and @ShamiWitness that were used to give updates on the groups´ activities as well as spread posts and images promoting ISIS including pictures of beheadings and phrases such as "All eyes on ISIS" and "We are all ISIS". Although many accounts and pages have been identified and deleted, ISIS members are still managing to reach a large group of people and communicate, also using the dark web, making it hard for authorities to eradicate ISIS related content.   However, the process of radicalization also involves the desire to affect political change in order to better the situation for the socially isolated and disenchanted such as themselves. They care about influencing the world around them but see their only way to do so in radical Islamism. They in fact, care so deeply about a cause that they are willing to die for it.

Major Member States involved

<u>France</u>

The French government has acknowledged the severity of the issue and is working on programmes in order to prevent radicalization as well as better integration. It is aware of the machinations used by extremist in order to recruit youth, which include a very high activity of extremists on social media, looking for helpless and confused teenagers to confront them with conspiracy theories in order to undermine institutional authority. France mission therefore is to convince the youth of the validation of the Republic and that it still comprises values such as liberty, equality and fraternity available for everybody. They want to show young people that they can find a purpose and acceptance as well as fulfillment and happiness in the country they live in. Therefore, France has launched a national campaign in order to represent republican values and make the youth familiar with even those. Adding on, a major national plan to combat racism has been announced as France states the importance of society as a whole to work on those issues, not the youth alone. However, changes are planned to occur in form of specific teachings in school focusing on the concepts of citizenship and secularism as well as emphasizing the importance of freedom of all religions. The program's mission is to strike a balance between fundamental freedoms as well as form a bond between the young people and their country as this is essential to understand the foundations of a nation. This understanding is required in order to feel bonded and included in the nation one lives in and is a part of, which is why France is planning to incorporate these teachings into regular curriculums. However, as well as school teachings, associations providing citizenship education in affected neighborhoods are also a huge part of France fight against youth radicalization. They also focus on reaching youth via the internet and social media in order to present a counteroffensive campaign against extremist movements and recruiters. In addition, civic service is an opportunity for anyone interested. Finally, former radicalized youth returning from combat zones having realised their mistake are offered possibilities in order to reinsert themselves back into society in accordance with the values of their home country instead of being punished. France is

appealing to all their European partners to follow this example and coordinate measures aimed at combating terrorism as well as recruitment of youth.

United States of America

The United States of America are committed to end all terrorism and are therefore participant in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. In the US opinion preventing and countering terrorism is only possible with united effort of the international community and it therefore supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy including all relevant resolutions and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism who both are focused on preventing violent extremism, PVE, and supporting the Secretary-General's High Level Action Group to mainstream PVE across the UN system. One of the mentioned resolutions is Resolution 2396, an update of Resolution 2178, that contains international obligations and actions that need to be taken in order to strengthen border security and information sharing as well as improve international cooperation, also concerning judicial measures. Adding on it is also supposed to ensure appropriate prosecution as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorist fighters and their families. The US draws special attention to the usage of new technologies as on their opinion they are one of the key elements to prevent radicalization of youth. They therefore suggest to elevate security standards worldwide also using next-generation screening technologies. As well as that, cooperation of all elements of the government including ministries of finance, justice, interior and security, and information and communications is essential to prevent violent extremism, just as working together with other nations in terms of sharing information on possible extremists and recruiters is one of the US main goals.

Syrian Arab Republic

The Syrian Arab Republic feels betrayed by western societies as they claim to be fighting terrorism but instead fund training camps for terrorist and claim them to be essential for the war and a victory in Syria. As well as that, the UN is called out by Syria for being used as a vehicle for the west to justify airstrikes and military intervention that would be illegal. Syria's Ambassador to the UN claimes to have experienced actions by western countries in order to silence him with the obvious intent of distorting reality and prolonging the proxy war on Syria. He directly stands up against the United States, calling them out for being associated with ISIS and for continuous attempts to defame the reputation of Syria. Western societies are seen as an enemy in Syria as they are blamed for destroying its infrastructure as well as manipulate the media and facilitate terrorist groups' use of chemicals as well as sponsoring terrorism and criminality with the disposal of weapons to terrorist groups and therefore fueling and lengthening the crisis. It also blames the UN for not being able to successfully interfere and therefore bring pressure upon sponsors of terrorism. It failed to stop the export of terrorists recruited abroad into Syria and Iraq, neither were border controls initiated to halt the flow of terrorist leaving and entering the country. Adding on, Syria stresses the inequity of terrorist being acknowledged as such and fought accordingly in western societies while terrorists attacking Syria are able to do so without being hindered but supported with money, weapons as well as entry visas and protection as they are not seen as terrorist groups but non-State armed groups or the moderate Syrian armed opposition even though they most likely are part of the so called Islamic state. The Syrian

Arab Republic s therefore addressing the UN Security Council in order to take responsibility to coordinate and promote international cooperation to combat terrorism.

<u>Turkey</u>

The country of Turkey has found itself being a target of various forms of radicalisation which is a struggle that is increasingly becoming more complex due to both domestic and regional reasons. As Turkey is located between Europe and the Middle East with borders to both, Syria and Iraq, its relationship with youth radicalisation differs greatly from other countries in Europe. This is also due to the large-scale refugee inflow as well as certain socio-political and socioeconomic reasons given in the process of radicalisation that are distinct to Turkey. Approximately 98% of the Turkish population identify as Muslim and the religion has a high significance among the country and its citizens since all children are required to attend a compulsory class on "Religious Culture and "Moral Knowledge" from the 4th grade to the 12th grade. Religion is therefore strictly monitored and centralised.   Due to several sociopolitical conflicts imbedded into Turkeys history, the most recent one being the attempted coup carried out by the Gulen movement in 2016, society has been divided causing tension among different groups. These tensions have been and are reinforced by several military coups and attempted coups as well as the governments repressive policies driving people towards radical ideas and behaviours and inducing and increase in support for existing radical groups or the appearance of new ones. In addition, Turkey has been the host of millions of Syrian refugees since the outbreak of the civil war in 2011, making it the home of the largest refugee population in the world. As a great majority of the Syrian refugees live outside camp settings and have very limited access to basic services such as education, work and healthcare and on top of that are often traumatised and exposed to violence, especially the youth are extremely vulnerable to radicalisation. As well as that, many Turkish citizens are not in favour of receiving this many refugees and do not welcome them in society. In order to fight radicalization, the Turkish government has been resorting to different methods and combining both hard and soft approaches. The hard measures have been focusing on the PKK as well as ISIS and include neutralizing terrorists and capturing them as well as the increased mount of walls, fences, ditches and lighting. Moreover, the government launched Risk Analysis Units and has enhanced the surveillance of online content. The soft measures include the formation of groups emphasizing the peaceful side of Islam as well as special programs designed to prevent recruitment and promote disengagement and deradicalization. In addition, rehabilitation and counselling programmes have been established as well as youth centres specifically targeting refugee children and youths. Turkey is also willing to cooperate with other countries and international organisations in order to better the integration of refugees into the community.

Possible Solutions

In order to fight youth radicalization in western societies a better understanding of the youth affected is required in order to give them a perspective that fulfills them and also benefits them in every way possible. To support this process, intelligence officers fluent in language and cultural intricacies of the immigrant and affected population should be hired to guide
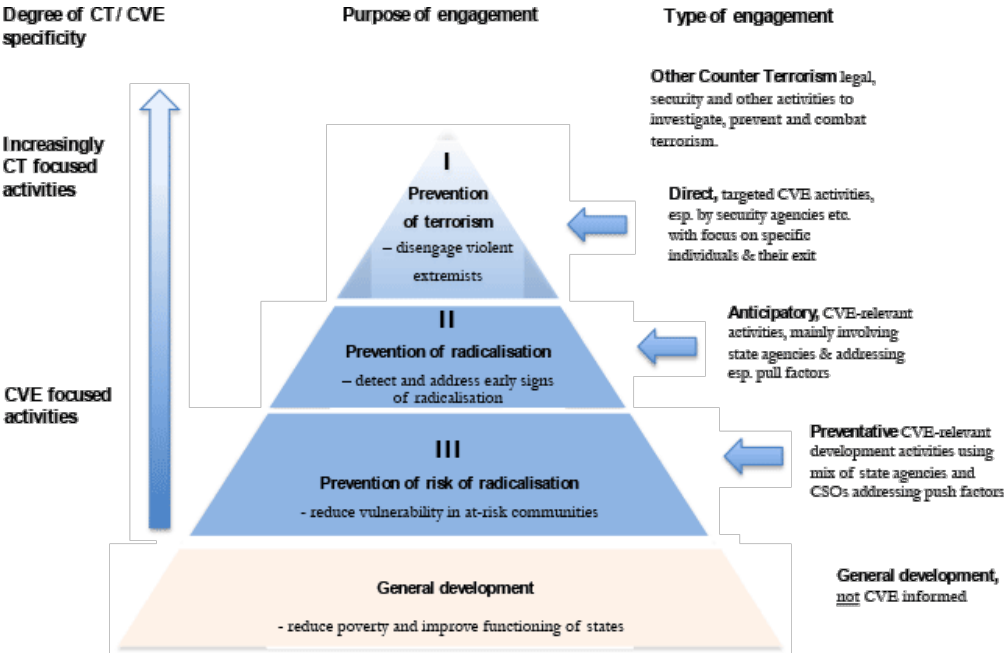
confused and helpless youth back on the right path. At the same time, they can help to collect and analyze information on youth that possibly are in the stage of radicalization and take action before this process is completed. In addition to the intelligence officers, police and social workers need awareness training to be able to identify early signs of a radicalization process and act immediately. These changes will be helpful in establishing a good relationship between youth and the agents and radicalization will be easier to detect.

At the same time social integration of youth is essential in the fight against radicalization alongside with education which must involve Muslim traditions in order to integrate the Muslim community and not make them feel like a misfit in society. Teaching young people in a more open way and bringing youth from different backgrounds together will create a collective identity and develop shared values instead of antipathy.

As well as that the public should focus on de-mystifying Islam not just among youth but among society as a whole as this will aid to eliminate prejudice and reunite society so that youth won't learn to dislike other youth because of a lack of knowledge of the others culture but learn to live together as a society.

It is also important to not only bring people from different backgrounds together outside of their homes but also in their homes as people with different religion and from different backgrounds, especially immigrants and freshly integrated should live in a neighborhood among non immigrants as this will prevent youth from feeling left out and looked down upon as well as make integration a lot easier.

A better cooperation between communities and police as well as intelligence services is essential for early detection of radicalization as communities may act as a warning system and providing essential information on youth and possible dangers as well as community can help to deal with personal crisis and social exclusion of the youth when awareness is high and the relationship between police and community is trusted.

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