International Journal of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine
Vol. 3, Issue - 1, January-June 2023

TERRORISM: PREVENTION, CONTROL AND MITIGATION

Dr. J. R. Gaur*

School of Forensics, Risk Management and National Security, Rashtriya Raksha University Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

ABSTRACT

Terrorism in one form or the other perpetuated in the world ever since the human civilization came into being. Terrorism in the broader sense is the use of intentional violence for political or religious purposes. It is used in this regard primarily to refer to violence during peace time or in the context of war against the non-combatant. The terms "Terrorist" and "Terrorism" originated during the French revolution in the 18th century. It gained popularity in the 1970s during the conflict of Northern Ireland, the Basque country and Palestine. The increased use of suicide attacks started after 1980s. The need of hour all over the world is to prevent, control and mitigate terrorism. In the present article some terrorist activity cases have been mentioned to show the magnitude of the problem. Some measures for the prevention, control and mitigation of terrorism have also been suggested.

Keywords: Terrorism, Terrorist, Prevention, Control, Mitigation.etc.

INTRODUCTION

With the onset of human civilization on the planet of earth, crime perpetuated in one form or the other in human social groups. If we have to look into the fundamental reasons as to why a person becomes a criminal or adopts criminal behavour, we have to look into the reasons of juvenile delinquency. Some of the reasons which have been stated to be responsible for juvenile delinquency can be personal, family reasons, regional and cultural, psychological, physical, social, religious, national etc[1].

If juvenile delinquents are treated appropriately and rehabilitated, guided and advised properly, we can prevent them from becoming future criminals. However, terrorism today is an organized crime due to internal reasons like, for ransom, revenge, religion, communal, linguist, loot, dacoity, rapes and murders. The external reasons for terrorism can stated to be territorial or border disputes among nations, international tensioned relations, linguistics, religious, cultural and racial discrimination. We have witnessed during last nearly six decades, all over the world, the deplorable acts of terrorism during which weapons and ammunition of almost of all kinds have been used by terrorists for creating terror in the society. Large numbers of innocent people have laid their lives in fighting against terrorism and so many innocent civilians have been killed. With the developments in science and technology the terrorists switched on to new technologies for committing the crime. Different kinds of explosives, detonation

***Corresponding Author Email:** jrgaur@rru.ac.in

devices and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been used by terrorists in the past. Not only this, human bombs have been used for killing VVIPs, aeroplanes have been hijacked and used in destroying the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, New York on September 11, 2001. The towers were considered to be the symbols of American economic power and had 35 tenants from 26 different countries and there were about 43000 people employed in the complex. The 110 storied building 1362 feet in height was ruined in no time at extremely high temperature as high as 2000^0 C^2.

ANTHRAX SCARE

After the incident of September eleven in USA, suspected packets stated to be containing anthrax were received in different parts of the world and a few of them had been found to contain anthrax spores. Hence, there was a great hue and cry all over the world regarding the unprecedented invasion of bioterrorism. Not only this, there was a terror all over the world that terrorists may use other biological warfare weapons or chemical warfare weapons like nerve agents, vesicants, blood gases or chocking agents, which had been used by anti-social elements at a few occasions in the past[6-9]. The terrorist attacks after 9 – 11 incident, in different parts of the world, intensified and had been of highly sophisticated nature, committed in highly organized ways, using latest scientific technologies. The world at large today is highly worried that the terrorists may not use chemical, biological or nuclear warfare weapons in future. There is no doubt such un-fateful action can be a cause of mass destruction of humanity. The detailed accounts about these deadliest agents can be persuaded in the publications[2-4].

SOME TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE WORLD[12]

1. **Grand Mosque Siege, Mecca:** The Grand Mosque seizure occurred during November and December 1979 when extremist insurgents calling for the overthrow of the House of Saud took over Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The insurgents declared that the Mahdi (the "redeemer of Islam") had arrived in the form of one of their leaders – Mohammed Abdullah al-Qahtani – and called on Muslims to obey him. In the early morning of 20 November 1979, the imam of the Grand Mosque was preparing to lead prayers for the fifty thousand worshipers who had gathered for prayer. He was interrupted by insurgents, led by Juhayman al-Otaybi, who produced weapons from under their robes, chained the gates shut and killed two policemen who were armed with only wooden clubs. The number of insurgents has been given as "four to five hundred" and included several women and children who had joined al-Otaybi's movement. Soon after the rebel seizure, about a hundred security officers of the Ministry of Interior attempted to retake the mosque, but were turned back with heavy casualties. The survivors were quickly joined by units of the Saudi Arabian Army and Saudi Arabian National Guard. The battle lasted for more than two weeks, and had officially left 255 dead and another 560 injured ... although diplomats suggested the toll was higher.
2. **Us Embassy Bombing, Beirut:** The United States embassy bombing was a suicide bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 63 people, mostly embassy staff members, several soldiers and one Marine. 17 of the dead were Americans. It is thought of as marking the begining of anti-U.S. attacks by Islamist groups. On the afternoon of 18 April 1983 a van gained access to the embassy compound, and packed with about 2,000 pounds (910kg) of explosives, exploded at the front of the embassy building. The then U.S. President Ronald Reagan denounced the "vicious terrorist bombing" as a "cowardly act". A pro-Iranian group calling itself the Islamic Jihad Organization took responsibility for the bombing in a telephone call to a news office immediately after the blast.
3. **Air India Flight 182:** On 23 June 1985, Air India Flight 182 aircraft was destroyed by a bomb at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 m). The flight was operating on the Montreal, Canada–London, UK–Delhi, India route. It crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while in Irish airspace. It was the first bombing of a 747 jumbo jet. A total of 329 people were killed, including 268 Canadian citizens, 27 Britons and 24 Indians. The majority of the victims were Canadian citizens of Indian ancestry. The main suspects in the bombing were members of the Sikh militant group Babbar Khalsa.
4. **Colombo Central Bank Bombing, Sri Lanka:** One of the deadliest attacks carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or the Tamil Tigers) during the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983-2009). On 31 January 1996, a bomb was detonated by a suicide bomber driving a lorry which contained 440 pounds of high explosive, killing 91 and injuring 1,400 others. The Tamil Tigers were separatist fighters, aiming for an independent state in the north and east of the island. Ultimately they were defeated in 2009 by the Sri Lankan military.
5. **2018 Mastung and Bannu bombings:** On 13th

July 2018, few days before Pakistan general elections, two bomb blasts took place one after another. In Bannu, there was a bomb planted in a motorcycle which exploded and killed 5 people on the spot and left 37 injured. ***Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen,*** an extremist organization, claimed responsibility for the attack. The second incident, one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the history of Pakistan, took place in Mastung during a rally for the Balochistan Awami Party's Siraj Raisani, the brother of former Balochistan chief minister AslamRaisani.which left 149 people dead and almost 186 people wounded. The attack was a case of suicide bombing. The ***Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL***) claimed responsibility for the event.

6. **As-Suwayda, attacks:** On 25th July, 2018, there was a chain of suicide Bombings and gun attacks in and around As-Suwayda, Syria which left at least 258 people dead and other 185 injured. The responsibility of the attack was claimed by the **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Initiall**y, the attack was started by assaulting defensive positions in the city. Once their ammunition got over, they started to detonate their explosive vests. One after another suicide bombers started exploding themselves and resulted in several casualties. Two suicide bombers were killed by the security forces before they could blow themselves up and arrested another inside Suwaida General Hospital.
7. **Kabul ambulance bombing:** On 27 January 2018, an ambulance loaded with explosives got blown up by the attackers near an interior ministry building on a busy and heavily guarded street in Kabul during rush hour. The explosives were detonated near Kabul's embassies and government buildings including the European Union embassies by the bombers. The tremors of the explosion were felt all around the capital and resulted in collapsing buildings and destroying façades in the immediate area. Infrastructures like Schools, Hospitals, Government offices and Private offices were located close to the site of the blast. It was the third major attack in seven days, following shootings at an aid agency in Jalalabad and at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul. This led to large number of casualties.
8. **Sri Lanka Easter bombings: On** 21 April 2019, Easter Sunday, three churches in Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital, Colombo, were targeted in a series of coordinated Islamic terrorist suicide bombings. Later that day, there were smaller explosions at a housing complex in Dematagoda and a guest house in Dehiwala. A total of 267 people were killed, including at least 45 foreign nationals, three police officers, and eight bombers and at least 500 were injured. According to Sri Lankan government officials, all eight of the suicide bombers in the attacks were Sri Lankan citizens associated with ***National Thowheeth Jama'ath,*** a local militant Islamist group with suspected foreign ties, previously known for attacks against Buddhists and Sufis.
9. **Bomb Blast in Syria:** On 8 April 2020 – A fuel tanker, rigged with a hand grenade, exploded in a crowded market place in the Syrian town of Afrin. The blast killed at least 46 people, including 11 children, and injured dozens more. The Ministry of National Defense (Turkey) blamed the attack on the YPG, the Syrian Democratic Council and the commander-in-chief of the Syrian Democratic Forces, MazloumAbdi, condemned the bombing, while a German newspaper suggested jihadist groups may have been behind the attack.
10. These cases indicate that terrorist attacks were widespread all over the world in the recent years as well as in the past. The world at large need to take counter terrorism measures to keep peace and harmony in the contemporary society.

MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKTS IN INDIA

India has witnessed several terrorist attacks in the past. These have effected the life and property very badly and created terror in the population. It is said that terrorists have no religion. They only understand the language of devastation. The major terrorist attacks in India created a huge loss of life and property[10-11].

1. **Pulwama attack:** On 14th February, 2019. It was one of the deadliest terror attacks on our brave security forces in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir which shocked the nation. In this attack at least 40 CRPF personnel were killed. An explosive filled vehicle was rammed by a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist on a bus carrying CRPF Jawans. The bus was part of CRPF convoy. A memorial has been ereated at CRPF's Lethpora camp near the site to pay respect and to commemorate the memories of soldiers who paid the ultimate price.
2. **Uri attack in 2016:** On 18th September, 2016, it was the worst attack on Indian Army. Heavily armed militants suspected to be from Pakistan based JeM stormed on army base in Uri in Kashmir, where 17 Jawans were killed. The army base was located barely a few kilometers away from the line of control (LoC) and about 70 km from Srinagar and was attacked by four terrorists. Twenty more army personnel of Dogra regiment of the army were injured. After three

hour gun battle four terrorist were killed. 13-14 soldier's. casualties could be due to the tents catching fire. This was stated to be the deadliest attack in Kashmir on security forces during last two decades. Nearly about ten days, the Indian Special Forces carried out surgical strike on seven terror launch pads along the LoC in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

3. **Mumbai attack:** On 26th November, 2008, 10 heavily armed terrorists from Pakistan LeT based entered in Mumbai. It was one of the most terrific attacks in the history of the country, in which 166 people lost their lives and over 300 were injured. It was a coordinated shooting and bombing attacks in Mumbai at five major locations.
4. **Jaipur blast in 2008:** On May 13, 2008, A series of nine bomb blast took place, in a span of 15 minutes. About 80 persons were killed and more than 170 were injured in this shocking attack.
5. **Mumbai train bomb blast in 2006:** On 11th July, 2006, a series of seven bomb blast took place in about 11 minutes, during the evening rush hours on the Suburban Railway in Mumbai. About 209 people. lost their lives and over 700 were injured. Perpetrators were terrorist group, Student Islamic movement of India (SIMI) and Laskkar-e-Taiba(LeT).
6. **Delhi Bomb Blast in 2005:** About 66 persons lost their lives and more than 200 were injured in series of bomb blasts in Delhi on 29th October, 2005. Crowded markets and some city areas were targetted by LeT. These serial explosions were stated to be the biggest terrorist strike in Delhi in 2005 outside Kashmir and since 1993 blast in Mumbai.
7. **Parliament attack in 2001:** About nine people were killed by terrorists of lashkar-e-Taiba(LeT) and Jiash-e-Mohhammed(JeM) on December 13, 2001, when they attacked parliament complex in India at Delhi. As per reports a note, along with three AK-47 rifles, magazines and UBGL grenade were recovered from the site of the attack. The victims were 5 Delhi police personnel, a woman trooper of CRPF, two parliament watch and ward staff and a gardener. A journalist who was injured died later. All five terrorist were shot dead.
8. **Bombay Blast in 1993:** March 12, 1993, was an unfateful day for Bombay (Mumbai) when a series of bomb explosions took place, which resulted in the death of about 257 persons and more than 700 persons were injured. The destruction of properties was estimated to be about more than 27 crore. Dawood Ibrahim was the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai. A series of 13 bomb explosions took place and several important buildings were destroyed including the Bombay stock Exchange.

Some Facts and Figures

In July, 2016, The Government of India released data on a string of terror strikes in India since 2005 that claimed 707 lives and left over 3200 injured. The perusal of the detailed list from 1970 to 2018 reveals that the incidents of terrorists strikes increased from 2011 to 2018, but, the rate of casualties and injuries declined almost to one third as compared to the period 2001 to 2010. In total there have been 12002 incidents of terrorist strikes in india from 1970 to 2018, in which 19866 persons died and 30544 were injured.

Terrorism prevailed in India in Punjab, J&K, North-East, Southern states of Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Western and Central India. No part of country remained un-affected during last six decades. The left wing extremism (LWE) attacks continued in Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. The security forces and the army and the police in various states had to bear a heavy loss of lives of their officers and Jawans who attained martyrdom for the security of the nation. There have also been heavy casualties of civilians and loss of public property. However, integrity of the country was upheld at all costs.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL AND MITIGATION OF TERRORISM AND TERRORIST ACTS

There is a famous phrase that *"if you want peace, be prepare for war"* and for winning war the important action has to be for *"cutting the supply line of enemy"*. For this purpose, we have to take multiple actions for establishing peace in the society, some of which are briefly highlighted in the succeeding paragraphs. These measures will also help in preventing, controlling and mitigating terrorism.

1. The organizations funding terrorist's activities should be banned and stringent action should be taken against them under the provisions of the law. If the existing laws are not sufficient to deal with the same, we should carry out necessary amendments in the existing laws. It may be mentioned that government of India carried amendment in the unlawful activities (prevention) amendment act in the year 2019, which now provides for ban the travel of the person declared as terrorist and for the confiscation of their properties.
2. The terrorists and anti-social elements are

generating funds with the illicit trade of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. To check the illicit trade the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act are sufficient to deal with this menace of crime, but, the stringent enforcement of the act, speedy trials and punishments are the need of the hour.

3. Printing and circulation of fake currency needs to be checked with heavy hands. The detection measures of fake currency need to be enhanced and the public is required to be made aware about the features of fake currency through trainings and appraisal programs.
4. The juvenile crime needs to be checked. Appropriate education and employment generation for the youth can help in the process. Special care and attention should be provided in the terrorism affected areas.
5. We need to impart moral education to our children studying in schools and colleges, so as to inculcate the sense of patriotism, nationalism and a belongingness to the society and for adopting the principle of *"live and let live"* peacefully. The hard core religious mindset needs to be diluted.
6. There should be speedy trials and punishment in terrorist activity cases even if more special courts have to be constituted so that the cases do not linger on for years together in the courts of law. This will generate faith of the public towards criminal justice system and they shall have respect for law and the criminal justice system immensely. This will also be a deterrence towards terrorism activities.
7. Investigation of terrorist cases cannot be carried out by traditional methods of investigation, since, the terrorist in this age of science and technology are committing crime by using latest devices, inherited from science and technology. So, the Investigating Officers also need to have training in scientific aids, forensic ballistics, explosives and digital evidences for the investigation of such types of crimes in an effective way, which leads to conviction in such cases and is a preventive measure as a result of deterrent punishment.
8. For post blast scientific investigations and reconstructions, forensic scientists need to undergo extensive trainings for effective investigation. The laboratory analysis should be based upon chemical methods as well as instrumental methods. The forensic scientists should submit their reports in terrorist activity cases in minimum possible time, so that appropriate assistance is obtained by the police investigator at the time of investigation of the crime. The forensic scientist should have detection methods at his commands up to nano (10^{-9}), pico (10^{-12}) and femto (10^{-15}) level.
9. Appropriate forensic infrastructures are needed to be updated in different Forensic Science Laboratories for dealing with terrorist cases effectively and the further networking for forensics need to be extended up to police station level. Similarly the paramilitary and defence forces also require technological up gradation.
10. Scientific methods of interrogation like polygraph, narco analysis and brain mapping need to be introduce and suspects of terrorist activity and the persons connected with the crime have to be scientifically interrogated so as to reach at the truth during investigation.
11. Effective surveillance, vigilance at the sensitive locations is needed for the prevention of crime through night vision devices, drone cameras and other audio-visual aids.
12. For preventing the use of nuclear, biological or chemical agents, we should have effective intelligence and security at appropriate different places. We should have also preparedness to deal with the effects of such attacks through antidotes, vaccines, medicines and also for evacuation etc. Post blast investigation teams and disaster management teams should be kept ready round the clock, so as to reach the places of occurrence without any loss of time.
13. The leakage of explosive materials and their theft takes place when these are being transported or from their storage site. Strict measures are needed for stopping any kind of leakage. Similar measures are needed for stopping the leakage of precurser substances.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It is felt that if above mentioned measures and precautions are taken we can prevent, control and mitigate terrorist activities to a large extent. Preventing terrorism is utmost necessary for the peaceful habitation of the contemporary society. It can only be possible, if all world countries pledge to shun down terrorist activities, irrespective of cast, creed, religion, region or territory, unitedly without any self-interest. It may be mentioned that the present Indian central government has adopted the "ZERO" tolerance policy for terrorist activities and has given free hand to the army and the paramilitary forces for the mitigation of terrorism and large number of terrorists of different terrorist organizations along with their so called commanders have been killed in the recent years while fighting against the army and the paramilitary forces. The infiltrators from across the borders are highly scared now to enter the Indian Territory as either they are caught by the army

or are shot dead in gunfights by the army and the paramilitary forces. Hon'ble prime Minister of India on various meetings with heads of different nations and even in UN has made an appeal that nations should unite for the mitigation of terrorism in the world, as the terrorist are the elements of inhumane character and a threat to the contemporary society all over the world. It is hoped that with effective deterrent measures we shall be able to save the society from the menace of terrorism.

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