

## **TERRORISM IN INTERNATIONAL CRIME: CASE STUDY OF TERRORISM ATTACKS IN EUROPE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This journal aims to analyze the role of terrorism in international crime with a focus on terrorism attacks in Europe. In this context, social, economic, and political approaches are utilized to understand the driving factors of terrorism and international crime. In addition, the impact of the use of the internet and social media in terror planning and propaganda is also examined. This study also explores the legal and law enforcement consequences of terrorism and transnational crime from an international law perspective. The research method used is a case analysis of terrorism attacks in Europe, focusing on the factors that influence terrorism and its implications for international crime.

**Keywords:** Terrorism, International Crime, Transnational Crime, Europe.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism is a complex phenomenon that involves the use of violence or threats of violence by individuals or groups with the aim of creating fear, creating political or social instability, or promoting a particular political, ideological, or religious agenda. Terrorism has a variety of goals, such as overthrowing a government, seceding from a country, or spreading extreme ideologies. They use various tactics, such as bomb attacks, hostage-taking, or media propaganda, to achieve their goals. The motivation for the emergence of terrorist movements can come from political, economic or extreme ideological factors. Terrorism can be carried out by individuals, small groups, or large organizations, such as Al-Qaeda or ISIS.

There has been a significant increase in terrorist attacks in Europe in the last few years. Based on data released by Europol or the United Nations Counter Terrorism Center (CTED), in 2014 there were 441 cases recorded and this increased the following year to 514 cases. In 2017 there were 580 cases. Meanwhile, in 2019 there were 119 terrorist attacks that were prevented and reported by 13 European Union member countries with the highest number of reports coming from Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and the UK. In 2020 around 45 out of 500 terrorism prisoners will be released in France, while in the UK, around 50 people are expected to be released. Among these cases, Europe frequently experiences terrorist attacks due to a number of factors. First, the existence of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda active in this region has become a serious threat. Some Europeans have joined these groups abroad and returned with radical ideologies. Additionally, the radicalization of individuals in Europe has been accelerated by the internet and social media, allowing the spread of extreme ideologies more easily. The Schengen Agreement which abolished internal border restrictions also facilitated free mobility between European countries, which could be exploited by terrorists.

Diaspora communities from countries with a history of conflict may also influence some individuals to engage in attacks. Social problems such as economic inequality and social tensions can also create an environment that supports radicalization. The participation of several European countries in conflicts abroad has sparked a backlash against their actions by terrorist

groups. Even though Europe has a strong security system, terrorist attacks are still possible due to security lapses. However, it should be noted that the majority of the European population is not involved in terrorism. European governments and society continue to work together to prevent and respond seriously to terrorist attacks. These efforts involve interstate cooperation, intelligence monitoring, law enforcement, and anti-radicalization programs.

Based on this background, this journal aims to answer:

- 1) What are the driving factors for terrorism and international crime?
- 2) The impact of the use of the internet and social media in planning and propagating terrorism?
- 3) What are the legal and law enforcement consequences of terrorism and transnational crime from an international law perspective

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

In writing this journal, this method is used to understand social phenomena or human behaviour in a natural context. The data collected is often in the form of text, interviews, observations, or documentation, and the analyses tend to be descriptive in nature. We used Qualitative Analysis, this involves analysing non-numerical data such as text, interviews, or imagery. Qualitative analysis methods such as content analysis, narrative analysis, or thematic analysis are used to identify themes, patterns, and meanings in qualitative data.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1) Factors driving terrorism and transnational crime**

Terrorist attacks that occur in the European region have become something familiar. Various types of attacks occur and continue to increase every year. Europe is a very diverse continent in terms of culture, religion and ethnicity. This diversity is a source of conflict and tension, especially if minority groups feel unrecognized or intimidated. Several terrorist attacks that occurred in Europe were mostly carried out by individuals or groups who felt marginalized or ignored.

The factors driving terrorism and transnational crime in Europe can be varied and complex and often no single cause can be identified. However, there are several factors that can influence the emergence and development of terrorist crimes in the region.

- **Radicalization and Ideological Extremism:** One of the key factors in terrorism is radicalization which involves accepting extreme ideologies. In Europe, some individuals have been influenced by radical ideologies that have driven them to commit acts of terrorism. The internet and social media can also play a role in the spread of such ideologies.
- **Social and Economic Inequalities:** Economic and social inequalities can create tensions in society, which extremist groups can exploit to recruit members. People who feel marginalized or do not have good economic opportunities may be more vulnerable to radicalization.
- **Refugee Crisis:** The refugee crisis affecting Europe in recent years has created new challenges in managing border security and the potential infiltration of terrorist groups. However, it is important to note that the majority of refugees are victims, not perpetrators of terrorism.
- **Border Security:** The Schengen system that eliminates internal border restrictions in many

European countries has made movement within the region easier. This can be exploited by transnational criminals for drug, weapons and other trafficking.

- **Technological Developments:** Advanced information and communications technologies enable transnational terrorist and criminal groups to operate more efficiently and covertly. This includes the use of cryptography and secure digital communications.
- **Fighting Abroad:** Some European citizens have joined militant groups abroad, such as ISIS in Syria and Iraq. They could return to Europe with experience and skills that could be used to plan attacks.
- **Development of Terrorist Networks:** The existence of powerful international terrorist networks, such as al-Qaida and ISIS, allows cross-border exchange of ideology, resources, and support.
- **Security System Weaknesses:** Sometimes, weaknesses in security systems or lack of cooperation between European countries can be exploited by transnational criminals.

### ***The impact of the use of the internet and social media in planning and propagating terrorism***

The use of the internet and social media has opened up new opportunities for terrorist groups to plan and spread their propaganda, the impact of which can be very significant, as follows:

- **Spread of Propaganda:** Social media allows terrorists to quickly spread their propaganda messages to a wider audience. They can upload emotionally stimulating videos, images and text to get people's attention and recruit supporters.
- **Recruitment:** The Internet and social media allow terrorists to find and recruit potential members or sympathizers more easily. They can utilize online platforms to identify individuals who may be affected and influence them.
- **Coordination and Planning:** Terrorists can use the internet to communicate and coordinate with members of their group around the world. They can plan attacks and coordinate their actions more efficiently.
- **Fundraising:** The Internet also allows terrorists to raise funds anonymously through cryptocurrencies and other platforms. This helps them obtain the necessary resources to carry out attacks
- **Spread of Extreme Views:** Terrorists may use social media to spread their extreme views and try to influence people to support or join their ideology.

In response to this impact, many countries and technology companies have worked together to identify and remove terrorist content from the internet and monitor suspicious activity. These efforts involve monitoring and reporting algorithms by users to identify troubling and suspicious content. Even though the internet and social media are two important actors in the occurrence of terrorism and transnational crimes, it is important to remember that the majority of internet and social media users are not involved in terrorist activities, and these platforms are also used for positive purposes. Therefore, dealing with the impact of terrorism on the internet must consider the balance between freedom of speech and security. The role of civil society, government institutions.

## *What are the legal consequences and law enforcement of terrorism and transnational crime from an international legal perspective*

Legal consequences are the results or impacts that arise as a result of violating the law or actions that violate legal norms. This can include various forms of sanctions or consequences established by the legal system in response to unlawful actions. Legal consequences may vary, depending on the severity of the legal violation, the applicable law, and the jurisdiction where the legal violation occurred. Legal consequences may vary from one jurisdiction to another and depend on various factors, including the severity of the legal violation, applicable laws, and law enforcement policies. The purpose of legal consequences is to create incentives for individuals and entities to obey the law and maintain social order.

The legal and law enforcement consequences of terrorism and transnational crime from an international law perspective are very complex and involve various international regulations, agreements and institutions. Several main aspects in this matter include several legal consequences and law enforcement, namely:

- **International Conventions and Agreements:** There are a number of international conventions and agreements aimed at addressing terrorism and transnational crime. For example, the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of International Crimes of Terrorism (UNTOC) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). Countries that have ratified this treaty are obliged to implement the necessary rules and measures in their national laws.
- **UN Security Council Resolutions:** The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed a series of resolutions related to terrorism and transnational crime. This resolution could require member states to take certain steps to combat terrorism, including economic sanctions and asset freezes.
- **International Law Enforcement:** Several international institutions, such as Interpol, play a role in law enforcement cooperation between countries to overcome transnational crime. They facilitate the exchange of information and operational cooperation between countries to apprehend and prosecute criminals.
- **International Courts:** International Courts such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) may play a role in the prosecution of individuals involved in international crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, the ICC has limited jurisdiction and can only pursue individuals if states are unable or unwilling to prosecute them themselves.
- **Inter-State Cooperation:** Inter-state cooperation is key in overcoming terrorism and transnational crime. Countries often share information, coordinate investigations, and pursue the extradition of criminals through bilateral or regional agreements.
- **International Sanctions:** The UN and some regional organizations may impose economic or diplomatic sanctions against countries or entities involved in terrorism or transnational crime. These sanctions may include trade restrictions, travel bans, or asset freezes.
- **Development of International Law:** International law continues to develop to address new challenges emerging in terrorism and transnational crime. Countries work together to identify gaps in international law and adopt new regulations where necessary.

Each country has its own national legal system and the law enforcement process against terrorism and transnational crime can vary in various countries in terms of enforcement. However, international cooperation in this case is important to overcome global threats such as

terrorism and transnational crime.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The role of terrorism in international crime, with a focus on case studies of terrorist attacks in Europe has become a significant global threat, with impacts that transcend national borders and continents. Terrorist attacks in Europe are one of the latest illustrations of the complexity of terrorism requiring close international cooperation in efforts to prevent, overcome and enforce the law. Europe has cooperated with other countries and international organizations in facing this threat. Terrorist attacks have a damaging impact not only on security but also on the social and economic life of society. These include economic loss, psychological trauma, and uncertainty in society.

European and other countries have stepped up security measures to protect their citizens and prevent further attacks. This includes increased border security, intelligence monitoring, and rapid response to threats. European governments are also working to prevent radicalization and address the root causes of terrorism through deradicalization programs, education, and social efforts. Tackling terrorism involves complex international legal challenges, including cross-border trials of perpetrators, extradition, and human rights considerations.

Terrorist attacks in Europe have raised global awareness of the importance of international cooperation in addressing this threat. This has resulted in concerted efforts to confront terrorism more effectively. Civil society also has an important role in fighting terrorism by reporting suspicious activities and supporting prevention efforts. It is important to take a holistic approach in dealing with terrorism, namely by understanding its root causes, strengthening international cooperation, and maintaining a balance between security and human rights. Thus, terrorist attacks in Europe illustrate the complexity of the role of terrorism in international crime, which requires a coordinated, proactive and holistic response from the international community to deal with it.

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