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## Between the Real Threat and Psychological Warfare, ISIS and Balkans Security

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### Abstract

*Promotion of religious fundamentalism and the tendency of its spread in the form of expressing the belief and devotion to the almighty shall not be related with terrorism or seen as its generator. Specific economic and political circles through media stereotypes and continuous indoctrination established a receptive and acceptive confusion. Contemporary socio-political reality of our region, entitle us to reaffirm the opinion that the fundamentalism as a religious, national, political and cultural concept is stereotyped to the extent of equivalence between the fundamentalism and terrorism. The reality is completely different from a scientific, theoretical point of view, the religious, Islamic fundamentalism, as an imposing tendency of those who are from a different religion can relate the Islam with terrorism, in this context as an ideological instrumentalization for economic political interests of specific circles of regional and state dimensions. The security in Balkans is very stable, and the threat made by ISIS-originating from this region, is more a psychological warfare than the real threat for security. When we mention this, we consider the fact that most citizens are oriented towards civilization values, reasonable actions and behaviours, willingness and determination of the states and international organizations for the preservation and protection of the major values such as the human life, freedom and the valuable system of this civilization.*

**Keuwords** Fundamentalism, Terrorism, Security, Balkans, Politics.

### INTRODUCTION

Security, which is an important segment for the state and the society, its stability is always being undermined and relativized, as in the national level as well as the international. The international trends and the general developments, also the globalization process, imposed a different dynamic, rhythm and approach of those hitherto, as in the aspect of acceptance as well as the perception of the phenomena, processes, inheritance and the future perspectives. Terrorism as a specific international threat is being imposed more as a multidimensional concern for the states, international community and the international law. The manifested modalities of international terrorism today hinder much more its prevention and combating, respectively with its specific characteristics which are the suddennesses and the high degree of the ideological indoctrination. The threats of Alqaida and other terroris groups were very challenging from 11 September 2001 until 2012, whereas now is presented the new model, the modified terrorist threat, Islamic state and international megalomaniac allegations as a deterring factor of the economic and policial affiliations, a factor with the aim to reconfigure the global, geopolitical and international law systems, without saving the innocent human lives by neglecting the international norms, ignoring and devastating the historical, cultural inherited values of this civilization, and as a consequence the Islamic state is going to an increasing extent of the sources of fear and insecurity, in which situation the psychological warfare is being exercised more than the real threat, especially in the part of Balkans, with the allegation of the serious threat for the international security and the general challenge of the international community, preventing and combating of which would require more than the cooperation of the states and mobilization of the international community.

### 1. Contemporary terrorism, manifesting modalities and security

Terrorism as a threat of society especially of security, and in general as a destructive activity, besides that aims the destabilisation and causes fear and insecurity, this phenomenon attacks also the democracy and the rule of law of a community, "Terrorism is a denial of democracy and of human rights"<sup>1</sup> (Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, OSCE, Handbook, 2014 Prishtina). Contemporary terrorism differs with various elements from the traditional one or determined differently in terms of time, the terrorism of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is different from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as in the organizational aspect, small number of members, then from the intensity of the actions as well as the weapons and tools used during these terrorist acts, whereas the common is the violence and spreading the fear with the aim to accomplish their goals which continuously are differing, modifying, influencing, and

determined by trends, events, reconfigurations of geostrategic policy interests and "maps". "The fact that the international terrorism with a symbolic number of members and the army tools used, but with well planned and coordinated terrorist actions can cause a war of international dimensions. These facts prove the serious risk that this phenomenon might bring to the peace and world security."<sup>2</sup> (Kolë Krasniqi, *International Terrorism*, Prishtina, 2010, faqe 53)

Among the manifesting modalities of contemporary terrorism is also the Islamic terrorism, Islamic Jihad, as a generator, imposing modality and a real threat for the international security inspired by inconsistent interpretations of the holy book, Kur'an and the messages and order of the Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam.

"According to radical interpretations of the last order of the Prophet Muhammad, the Islamic Jihad is about the war to spread the true belief and subjugating the non-believers, from such aspect is stylized also the spiritual aspect of the Jihad as a voluntary obedience and spiritual obligation for self-sacrifice for the service of God."<sup>3</sup> (Kolë Krasniqi, *International Terrorism*, Prishtina, 2010, page 180). The Jihadist ideology and the tendency of establishing and dominating the Islamic state, is a real threat for the international security, and to all of this we mention also the fact of the unemployment which is increasing more and more and the poor socio-economic conditions, as well as migration as an accompaniment phenomenon of these trends, then the concern for the increasing insecurity results to be more real, but seen through the prism of near perspective, this situation can be managed and cannot result as an unsurpassed obstacle.

## 2. Security, risks and threats in Europe and Balkans

Nowadays, not only Europe, but the entire international community is at a crossroad regarding the protection strategy and ensuring an international stable security by preserving and protecting the highest values of this civilization, the human rights and freedoms. The crossroad and insecurity were influenced and conditioned several factors, such as the war in Ukraine and the tendency of spreading the Russia's influence in this part of Europe, as well as the Islamic state with the tendency of its spreading through ideological influence and other instrumentalization forms to a part of Balkans youth and beyond, thus manifesting a new modality of the international terrorism which as an extreme radicalisation, declared war not only to specific states, organization, but also to the inherited values of ancient civilization, by violently devastating them. Security in Europe has no alternative, the strategy for preventing the dominance of the Russia in Central Europe and the Baltic region, is a serious challenge not only for the Europe, but also for the USA, also the other relevant international factors for international security and the rule of law until now. Whereas, the influence, the spread of insecurity and fear through direct threats in media by the members of the Islamic State originating from Balkan countries to the states and their citizens, it seems more like a psychological warfare than any potential serious risk of the Balkans states security. This is confirmed by the officer for public relations of the Kosovo Police, Major Baki Kelani, according to which "The Kosovo Police considers that for the moment there is no serious risk from Terrorism in the Republic of Kosovo, nevertheless, Kosovo cannot be immune, same as the most developed states in Europe and beyond are not."<sup>4</sup> (Daily Newspaper "Koha Ditore" - 02.07.2015)

## 3. Radicalization of the religious fundamentalism and the offensive of the Islamic state

Radicalism as a concept and radicalisation as a process in the most cases are destructive and during the history are presented as barrier and prevention forces of the processes and events in society. Seemingly, there were also phases and moments when radicalisation of a process in a specific phase resulted as an adequate action in certain circumstances and at the relevant time, however these cases and phases were significantly at a lower level. The national, ideological, political and especially religious radicalisation were fundamentals modalities derived from the same profile, which in specific circumstances and periods of time generated different conflictual tensions to the escalation of violence and spreading the hatred, consequence of which always was the instability, fear, insecurity of certain community. The Islamic fundamentalism and radicalization are not related to terrorism, but the radicalization of this religious concept and confession with the tendency of violently protecting the Islamic values according to their opinion, many times by distorting the principles and messages of Kuran, which is set in connection with the terrorism as a mechanism tool to achieve the ideologican and political goals, thus being presented as a contemporary challenge of the international security."Radicalization is not a threat to society if it not connected to violence or other unlawful acts, such as incitement to hatred.... Terrorist radicalization is a process whereby an individual comes to accept terrorist violence as a possible, perhaps even legitimate, course of action."<sup>5</sup> (Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, OSCE, handbook,

2014 Prishtina). Regarding the recruitment tendency by the terrorism of the Islamic state model, must be said that is related with a ideological political violent project, with the sole purpose, which is already a well known fact, the establishment of Caliphate, for which purpose is re-actualized the Machiavellian doctrine, according to which the end justifies the means.

### 1. The real threat from terrorism or psychological warfare from ISISi, in Balkans and Kosovo

Terrorism and the terrorists in general are the worst things, and today, the threat from terrorism is real. The terrorist organizations, generally the terrorist of ISIS, threat all of them who come before them and the others who oppose and criticise them for their way of achieving the goals which are already known, establishment and expansion of the Islamic state. "Terrorism and the terrorists in general are the worst things. Escaping to reductionism stereotypism is an escape from reality, from the real and the creation of the space for the fifth knight of apocalypse "6 (Abazovic Mirsad, Ogleđi o Sigurnosti, Sarajevo, 2010). Neither the escape to reductionism nor their hyperbolism and institutionalization of fear through media, shall not be happening, a thing which intentionally or unintentionally is happening, the frequent presence of the images and messages of terrorist threatening apparently will spread fear and insecurity, and such presentations are more as psychological warfare than a real threat for the Security in Balkans and Kosovo. "Bad days will come for you. We do not forget the things that you have done to Muslims, you will be afraid to walk on the roads, you will be afraid to work at your offices; you will be terrified at your houses. We will do the same thing to you as we did in Iraqe with their army. We will come to you with people who love the death more than life. We will fight until the word of Allah is accomplished and this will happen very soon. – This was a threat done through a published video online for all Balkans countries with a majority of Muslims, by Ridvan Haqifi<sup>7</sup> (Daily Newspaper "Koha ditore", 06.06.2015, Prishtina). This was one of the presentations of the Kosovars who are in Syria, members of ISIS, for the establishment of Islamic state, who from there threatens the majority of muslims, respectively the Balkans countries with a majority of muslims, threats which are more part of a psychological propaganda than a real threat of such dimensions that would affect the security of Western Balkan states. Several suspicious actions and movements of the Kosovo citizens raised the vigilance of the Police and Prosecutir to prevent the potential terrorist acts and action, we are referring to a source of the daily newspaper Koha Ditore, regarding the work of Presecutor; " thus, during the telephone interceptions, the young boy from Gjilan, requested help from an Albanian from Macedonia (which is in Syria), to go to Syria and fight for Jihad, the interlocutor from Syria said that Jihad can be done also in the place where are you located, this telephony conversation was interpreted as a potential terrorist attack in Kosovo, (according to the newspaper source, from the State Prosecutor), and there is no real threat for such thing"<sup>8</sup> ( Daily newspaper :Koha Ditore , 02.06.2015, Prishtinë ). However, the increased level of the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies and other institutions from the field of Security shows the seriousness of the situation and responsibility of the Republic of Kosovo, which is already listed on the block of the allied stated to fight and prevent the terrorism, without compromise.

We can conclude that the Islamic state and the Caliphate cannot be established and consolidated, because the legal, economic and political consequences of security are much larger from the achievement of such project, therefore the international mobilization and resistance to such creature will be more powerful than the huge desire for death than the life of Islamic jihadists of the Islamic state. Regarding the Balkans region in particularly Western part, the tendency of spreading of ISIS and recruiting persons from this region will always be smaller, the total number of the Kosovar Albanians, since from the commencement of the war in Syrua is about three hundred persons, number of the people murdered within ISIS, originating from Koosovo is fourty persons since from the commencement of the conflict, whereas the number of the people murdered of traffic accidents within the period 1 January 2015 - 30 June 2015, is 46 persons. (Information made public and presented in electronic media, national television, - 25.07. at 22:00, news)

### Conclusions

In conclusion, we can add that the fight against terrorism and establishment of an international and national stable security are serious challenges for the state and the international community in general. Risks and threats by the Islamic Jihadists are real but the situation is not as much as is being alleged and presented by the propaganda of the members of ISIS and Jihadist ideology. Particularly, the Balkans and Kosovo cannot be an exception, the commitment, mobilization of the state and the citizens shall be in the highest level in order to resist the initiatives of individuals and groups who attempt to recruit as many potential members as possible. The highest effectiveness and commitment of the institutions which have primary

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mandate the security, is the activity and obligation which shall continuously be in satisfactory level and in compliance with the strategic plans and objectives of Western states which in the global plan bear the responsibility to fight against terrorism of all types and levels. Controlling and monitoring the work of NGOs with suspicious activity and preventing the indoctrination propaganda activity of some recruiting groups and circles, as well as controlling and monitoring the suspicious financial transactions as a preventive activity for the financing of terrorism. As a conclusion also the social care, respectively increased care from the state for the families in extreme poverty, which belong to the social category with approximately 15% cases, which deserve an increased care by the state, because according to the statistical data, the most of the people that are going in Syria from the Republic of Kosovo, belong to the poor class and the extremely poor class, which are a social structure that are easy to indoctrinated and recruited into warriors of ISIS..

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