



A Monthly Newsletter

August, 2022, Issue 42

A DELEGATION FROM PRESIDENCY OF THE STAFF OF SULTAN OF OMAN'S ARMED FORCES VISITS IMCTC



IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, received on Monday, 15-08-2022, at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh, a delegation from the Presidency of Staff of Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces, led by Commodore Eisa Salem Al-Owaisi, Assistant Chief of Staff of Sultan of Oman's the Armed Forces for Administration and Supplies; continued P. 10

IMCTC CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The delegate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to IMCTC celebrated on Sunday, 07/08/ 2022, the 61st anniversary of his country's independence at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh. The celebration was joined by the delegates of member countries and IMCTC personnel. Col. Mohammed Sessi gave a speech and played a profile video about the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. On this occasion, IMCTC Secretary-General congratulated Colonel Sissi on the National Day, wishing the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire continued progress and prosperity; continued P. 4

IMCTC RECEIVES TWO DELEGATES OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN



The two delegates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan joined the rest of other fellow Delegates of the IMCTC member countries. Two delegates took up their roles and responsibilities on August 11, 2022 along with their colleagues from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh.

IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, welcomed both delegates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to IMCTC and wished them success in their roles and responsibilities, highlighting the contribution entrusted to the delegates of the IMCTC member countries to serve IMCTC and associated initiatives in countering terrorism.



CYBERSECURITY GOVERNANCE



As part of the efforts to foster awareness about cybersecurity against incidents and information technology breaches, IMCTC organized a presentation on Cybersecurity Governance at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh on Monday, August 1, 2022, by Engineer Mohammed Abdul Aziz Al-Mathami, Cybersecurity Governance expert. During the presentation, the importance of cybersecurity governance, implementation mechanisms and the regulatory frameworks that need to be further developed was discussed to protect information security against external attacks. The speaker explained that, with the rapid acceleration of digital transformation, the rates of digital attacks and the risks of data exfiltration increased, which made many technologically advanced countries keen to provide a secure environment for data through a solid security system.

The speaker first defined the key concepts, including cybersecurity governance, as 'the means through which an entity controls the cybersecurity approach and through which the cybersecurity activities of the entity are effectively coordinated to allow a cybersecurity-adequate decision-making in the entity by defining cybersecurity policies, roles and responsibilities. It is also defined as 'a supervisory process for cybersecurity teams entrusted with mitigating business risks to ensure that decisions are made to prioritize risks so that efforts are focused on the priorities of a given entity rather than the priorities of the cybersecurity teams. This also helps in mitigating and addressing business risks faced by a given entity, while addressing internal and external cyber threats, and compliance with cybersecurity requirements. The speaker also defined policies as 'documented practical and technical rules to protect an entity from cybersecurity risks against business and technical infrastructure. Such codified policy documents provide a general description of the various controls that a given entity will use to manage cybersecurity risks. Policy documents are a formal declaration of senior management to protect information assets from associated risks. Cybersecurity policy is one of the most important policies as it represents the most important policy that defines cybersecurity regulations and laws, which must be observed

and applied to realize protection from various cybersecurity risks and raise the level of cybersecurity governance.

The speaker explained the principles of cybersecurity governance in several points:

■ Identify the potential impact of cyberattacks on an entity

The concept of cybersecurity must be viewed in the light of the potential harm and wide-ranging effects of cyberattacks. To properly manage cybersecurity, understanding the acceptable levels of risk tolerance and business impact is required through in-depth understanding of the method through which the entity users can be targeted and affected by cybersecurity attacks.

■ Understand organizational and individual culture and behavior patterns of the organization

It is critically important to understand that business value and business risks of cybersecurity are strongly affected by the organizational and individual culture of a given entity through the behavior patterns of its users, in addition to their habits and social communication. Such factors must be considered and integrated into the strategic security measures of the tactical and operational cybersecurity of the entity.

■ Establish cybersecurity governance

In one way or another, cybersecurity exists in most entities and transforms gradually. However, we must ensure that cybersecurity is subject to clear rules of governance by adopting and developing an institutional framework for cybersecurity governance.

■ Identify the scope and objectives of ensuring cybersecurity

Cybersecurity covers multiple aspects and general specialized areas. To provide cybersecurity guarantees, the scope and area of cybersecurity must be pinpointed with clear, reasonable, controllable and achievable goals, taking into consideration the risks identification and understanding outside the organization-



al environment of the entity.

■ Identify clearly the gap analysis behind cybersecurity and the entity's interest in taking the risk.

In terms of business value and risk tolerance, the feasibility study will determine the overall cybersecurity strategy adopted by the entity. The feasibility study must be clearly defined and fully understood at all levels of administration, including cost-benefit considerations, alongside the entity's cybersecurity prevailing organizational culture and values.

■ Create and develop systemic cybersecurity

Cyber-attacks target the most vulnerable link in the entity's cybersecurity system. As such, cybersecurity must be understood as a system of interconnected components of individuals, technologies, and procedures where sound cybersecurity requires full understanding of such a dynamic system and an awareness that governance, management, and assurance of cybersecurity cannot be viewed in isolation from the other components.

The speaker also referred to one of cybersecurity governance methods, that is the implementation of local cybersecurity controls and the best international practices, including:

■ Basic cybersecurity controls issued by the National Cybersecurity Authority

The National Cybersecurity Authority has developed the basic cybersecurity controls that seek to provide the minimum basic requirements for cybersecurity based on the best practices and standards to reduce cyber risks on the information and technical assets of entities from internal and external threats. The basic cybersecurity controls consist of 114 basic controls that are divided into five main components:

(Cybersecurity governance; boosting cybersecurity; cybersecurity resilience; third party cybersecurity and cloud computing; and cybersecurity for industrial control systems).

■ International Standard for Information Security Management (ISO/IEC 27001)

The international (ISO/IEC 27001) standard is an effective business driver for every organization seeking to manage secure information assets of high privacy. The standard also helps to manage information security in an effective manner and continuously improve it to keep pace with current and future cybersecurity challenges and threats. The standard establishes a set of rules that a given entity needs to implement and ensure that application is in place to identify stakeholders and expectations in terms of information security within the entity, and identify cybersecurity risks that threaten information of a given entity.

The speaker concluded his presentation by highlighting the most important challenges that can be faced over the course of development of a given organization to provide a secure data and digital operations environment through a robust security system.

1. Cybersecurity strategy and objectives:

To create a good cybersecurity governance program, an entity must clearly define the risk management policies, strategy, and objectives. Similarly, the senior leadership must evaluate its current risk management approach before it defines the strategy and objectives of the entity's preferred position. Therefore,

the strategy must be a high-level document that defines the entity's roadmap in order to maintain its comprehensive risk management approach and improve it continuously. The key components for developing an effective cybersecurity strategy include the following:

Key Components of Developing Effective Cybersecurity Strategy	
Understand how cybersecurity risks relate to critical operations of the entity	Creating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Develop the strategic goals of the entity	Identify the required resources
Identify the scope	Determine the desire to take risk
Identify cybersecurity needs and develop goals	Create continued monitoring

2. Standard Operations:

Many entities embark in operations and hire staff to ensure that day-to-day tasks are completed without approved standard and repeatable processes. As such, entities can ensure efficiency, quality or consistency. Consistency per se is critical to ensuring a common understanding and management approach to risk across the entity. Establishing repeatable processes is also a key factor in the entity's overall cybersecurity governance program. In short, a customized and inconsistent cybersecurity governance program will eventually lead to shortcomings.

3. Enforcement and Accountability:

Processes and operations must be in their proper place to enforce the set requirements. Otherwise, the cybersecurity program will become inconsistent, the set requirements will be ignored, and failure will come into play. Once those entrusted with roles and responsibilities realize or observe that accountability along with cybersecurity governance does not exist, they will carry out things in their own fashion, which goes against the creation of standard processes and operations. Cybersecurity governance must be measurable and enforceable, and there must be accountability for compliance by employees at all levels.

4. Supervision from Senior Leadership:

Since cybersecurity governance is a matter of concern for entities, the focus and direction of the cybersecurity program must come from the top to ensure that the process achieves its set goals. Unless the senior leadership supports cybersecurity governance with a robust approach, the cybersecurity management efforts of the entity are likely to fail.

Resources:

Senior leadership must ensure that adequate resources are made available to meet core cybersecurity governance needs and compliance in line with the entity cybersecurity strategy and objectives. Funding should be appropriated to the highest priority to secure information and information systems appropriate to risk levels. Equally important, resources should also include dedicated funding and training for qualified personnel. In addition, such resources should allow for the purchase of sufficient tools.



REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The delegate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire celebrated on Sunday, 07/08/2022, the 61st anniversary of his country's independence at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh. On this occasion, Colonel Mohamed Sissi made a speech on the anniversary of independence of his country and played a profile video about his country. It is worth noting that the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire gained its independence from France in 1960.

The terrain of the Republic of Côte d'Ivo-

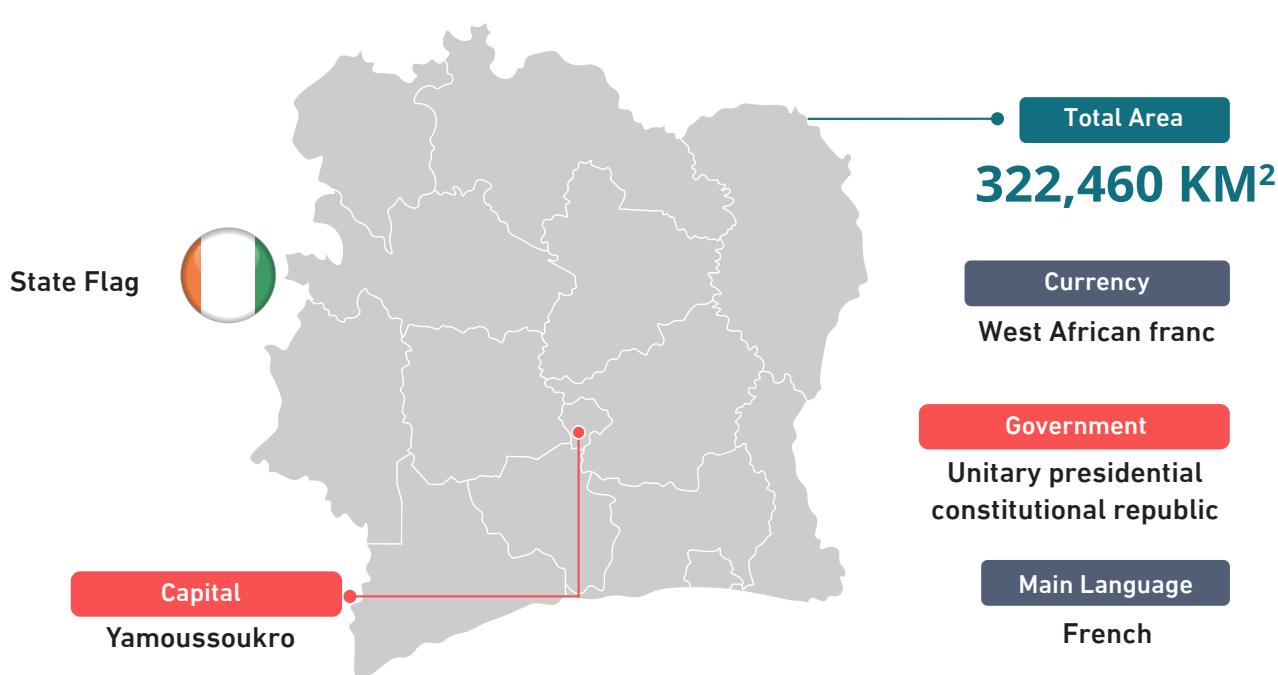
■ Climate

The coastal region of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is characterized by a tropical, hot and very humid climate. The climate is semi-arid in the far north of the country. In general, Côte d'Ivoire experiences three climatic seasons: warm and dry from November to March; hot and dry from March to May; hot and humid from June to October.

■ Natural Resources

The most important natural resources in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire are oil,

shores and account for one third of the total area. The territory of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire elevates gradually from the Atlantic Ocean up to 395 meters above sea level. The eastern part of Côte d'Ivoire is flat and sandy, forming a sandy strip with a width of no more than 6 km to the east. Behind this sandy strip there are deep lakes that connect it to the sea. Several small rocky faults extend along the western region of the coast.



ire is known for its flat lands and graded plains. The eastern part of Côte d'Ivoire is flat and sandy, while the northwest of the Côte d'Ivoire is mostly mountainous regions.

natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum, silica, clay, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and hydropower.

■ Agriculture

Côte d'Ivoire ranks among the world largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans and palm oil. Thus, the economy is very sensitive to fluctuations in international prices of these products and to climatic conditions. Despite the government attempts to diversify the economy, it is still largely dependent on agriculture and associated activities.

■ Geography

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire consists of coastal plains that extend along the

Behind the coastal strip lies a tropical forest, with a width ranging between 155 and 300 km. As we head north, the forest turns into a group of scattered trees with abundant herbs.

■ Tourism

Côte d'Ivoire is one of the richest countries in West Africa; it is an attractive tourist destination to explore. It has rainforests that feed vast plantations of cocoa and bananas and the picturesque beach resorts with mist and fog, while national parks and nature reserves display wonderful wildlife and some places that are listed within the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

■ Geographical Location

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is located in west Africa, on the Atlantic coast. It is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso and Mali, to the west by Guinea and Liberia, to the south by the Gulf of Guinea, and to the east by Ghana.

■ Flag

The flag of Côte d'Ivoire is made up of three vertical stripes; orange at the flagstaff side, then white and green.



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRAITS OF A TERRORIST



IMCTC held a keynote presentation, Sunday, August 14, 2022, at its Headquarters in Riyadh about (Psychological and Social Traits of a Terrorist) presented by Dr. Yahya bin Mubarak Khatatbeh, who holds a PhD degree in psychological counseling. Dr. Khatatbeh teaches social sciences at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University. During the presentation, the types of terrorist personality and psychological and social traits were discussed. The speaker indicated that a terrorist personality is an outcome of psychological, social and cultural disorders, a result of some irrational ideas and beliefs that loom to the terrorist, such as feelings of marginalization, oppression, injustice and compulsion. The speaker also touched on the method of classifying the psychological and social traits of the terrorist personality and how to detect and deal with him early on through a set of predictions and interactions observed by the community, family or psychologists.

Dr. Khatatbeh first explained the concept of the terrorist personality. He said: "Before defining the terrorist personality as a personality per se, a number of questions essential to identifying the nature of the personality and associated components should be highlighted. Does the terrorist have a normal or abnormal personality (pathological - disturbed)?" What factors do contribute to the making of the terrorist personality? What are the most important traits of the terrorist personality (psychological and social traits)? To provide answers to these questions and better understand the nature of the terrorist personality and associated psychological and social traits, it can be said that the terrorist personality is an outcome of psychological, social and cultural disorders that result from some irrational ideas and beliefs that develop to the terrorist, such as the feeling of marginalization, oppression, injustice and compulsion. As such, the terrorist personality is disturbed, ab-

normal, frustrated and unhappy, with an increased sense of the pressures of daily life, along with disintegration, anxiety, aggressiveness, poor self-esteem, and false perception of the others and the society in which they live; he is also authoritative, heterosexual, and ego-vulnerable, which all lead to the practice of extreme behaviors, such as intolerance, bigotry, rigidity, ideological, inflexibility and ambiguous role.

The social expert also indicated that the terrorist personality is achieved through several overlapping factors, such as metaphysical, psychological, social and economic aspects; mental abilities and experiences, and mood, in addition to other environmental and cultural factors such as:

■ Personality Traits Factors

These factors become clear by looking into the history of the terrorist: his birth, the methods of upbringing, and the experiences he gained and affected his personality, such as exposure to physical, sexual and psychological violence which they experienced. It is also possible to address the psychological traits of the individual, including the psychological, social and behavioral disorders that he suffers from, along with the psychological and cognitive disorders and pressures they sustain, poor cognitive abilities, meager interest in critical thinking and constructive dialogue, deprivation, cruelty, feeling of insecurity and fear, feeling of insecurity from the social setting, and increased guardedness against the people.

■ Family Factors

Such factors represent the entirety of the family and social disorders that the individual experiences, such as family and social disintegration, disruption of family relationships and aggressive behavior of children, such as wrong parenting methods, violence and cruelty, psychological disorder and



negative self-reflection, exposure to family violence, disavowal of parents, tough socialization, extreme self-reliance, aggressiveness among children, lack of acceptance, domination and discrimination, poor social communication skills, and poor parental care.

Societal Factors

Societal factors represent the totality of attitudes and factors related to society, such as the economic level, the role of mass communication and the media, the Internet and crime programs. Such factors affect the emergence of terrorist activity. Dr. Khatatbeh also explained the traits and patterns of the terrorist personality, indicating that the psychological and social traits of the terrorist personality appear through his speeches and answers in meetings and response to questions. This also includes the analysis of his body language, objective analysis of interviews conducted with him, and some words and connotations and implications that crop up in dialogue and discussion, which help in identifying his cognitive trends, in addition to psychological tests and measurements that determine the nature of such disorders, severity, and how frequent associated symptoms come to surface in diagnostic criteria. The terrorist also suffers from several common psychological disorders and some psychological aspects related to the structure and formation of his personality, such as (weak self-confidence, indecision, poor cognitive skills, vulnerability to others' opinions, emotional imbalance, poor social communication skills,



withdrawal and introversion, frustration and anxiety, and some other disorders, such as sadism and narcissism).

In this connection, Dr. Khatatbeh touched on the patterns of terrorist personality, considering that the terrorist personality is complex and combines five personalities classified as disordered (abnormal), namely: (paranormal, narcissist, obsessive-compulsive disordered, schizophrenic, and anti-social). The Social Science Professor in Imam Mohamed bin Saud Islamic University, Dr. Khatatbeh , concluded his presentation

by mentioning the mechanism of classifying the psychological and social traits of the terrorist personality and how to detect and deal with it as early as possible through some predictions and interactions observed by the community, family or psychologists, including:

- **Injustice Complex**

The traits of such a personality appear in terrorists through their sense of injustice done to them by the society. Such terrorists remain in search of a way to respond to the injustice. They feel persecuted and see that their rights squandered and thus have an inclination to harbor life-long grudges. The beginning of the formation of such a personality is the emergence of illusory beliefs that become stronger over time and become established facts from their point of view. Such terrorists do not shy away from committing a crime, heedless about the social rules and the consequent punitive measures.

- **Cognitive Traits**

The features of the personality that suffers from cognitive disorders are evident in abstract thinking, close-mindedness, mental rigidity, intolerance of beliefs and ideas that are different from his, and adoption of extremist ideology, aggressive and suicidal thinking, and contradictory ideas. He also suffers from imbalance in understanding reality and its distortion; and is preoccupied with illusions, fantasies, irrational beliefs, and biases.

- **Social Traits**

Socially, the traits of the terrorist personality are evident in the inclination to social isolation; such terrorist personality suffers from poor communication skills and dialogue with others, extremism, fanaticism, radicalism, close-mindedness and intolerance of others, in addition to blind imitation and love of showiness and fame, even by practicing sabotage, killing, destruction, violence, roughness, and rudeness, and weird appearance.





RESILIENCE AGAINST TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM THROUGH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE



IMCTC held at its Headquarters in Riyadh on Wednesday, August 18, 2022, a keynote presentation on (Resilience Against Terrorism and Extremism Through Emotional Intelligence), presented by Tariq Abu Zainab, Media Academic. The presentation aimed at identifying the strategies of emotional intelligence and its negative applications and at studying how extremists manipulate emotional intelligence through the media. The speaker touched on how to use the media to manage the change of human behavior, the impact of social media platforms on emotional intelligence, and the role of the latter in depicting the stereotyped image to the audience. The speaker also linked the role of emotional intelligence in the media with the politicization of mindsets either towards tolerance and moderation or towards extremism and violence, depending on the intended messages.

Mr. Abu Zainab began his speech by defining emotional intelligence and explaining associated features; he said: "Emotional intelligence refers to a person's ability to identify and manage one's emotions and feelings and the feelings of others, as well." Emotional awareness includes one's ability to identify one's own feelings and the skill of employing such feelings, while still projecting them on different actions, such as thinking, problem-solving and the skill of managing emotions. Taken together, it means regulating feelings and helping others to do the same or controlling the thought through emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence creates the ability to read our instinctive feelings and generates lines of understanding and discerning emotions. It also provides expression and action to discover, understand and categorize the emotions of others accurately to guide our thoughts and behavior. The emergence of emotional intelligence is ascribed to a skeptic tendency in the dominance of rationality in Western culture across industrial societies, so much that reason has prevailed in many aspects of life, while emotion has been brushed aside. Equally important, emotional intelligence has become more important in maintaining individual and social health and welfare. Many individuals have lost emotional intelligence in their everyday lives and failed to understand the basic emotional needs of others; in fact, they mock and despise them. The matter came to a point whereby many individuals do not understand their own emotions well and cannot control or manage their feelings well.

The speaker noted that studies published by Yale University in the United States of America have revealed that people who have more emotional intelligence are healthier, happier, and more effective. The main features of emotional intelligence include:

■ Emotion Management

Part of what makes a person fall easy prey to others is to be internally marginalized, controlled or dominated. It is therefore better that the child grow up in a healthy environment that supports freedom of opinion, objection and questions.

■ Social Skills

Emotionally intelligent people understand the importance of social skills in terms of empathy and praising others. As such, emotionally intelligent people reframe criticism as constructive feedback so that the audience can accept it as a useful, inoffensive advice.

■ Managing Emotional Manipulation

Emotionally-intelligent people are aware of the presence of negative aspects of emotional intelligence, such as emotional manipulation, deception, and seeking to hurt others. That is why they resist these destructive ideas and negative proposals, and stand against being swept by the calls that incite violence, extremism, etc.

The speaker commended the role of the media in shaping one's life and society; he said: "the media plays a fundamental role in shaping one's life and society, while still contributing to socialization and public opinion along with the strong influence on numerous aspects of social life. Based on this standpoint, the speaker referred to some methods used by extremist in this regard, including:

1. Reiteration of issues in such a way that entrenches ideas in the subconscious of listeners and viewers.
2. Attempt to spread hostility and violence in the mindset through high-quality media and propaganda materials.
3. Propagation of misinformation (fake news).



4. Insulting the other party through extremist channels, which serve the agenda of certain parties.

5. Promote the discourse of hatred and grudge (narrative and tone).

6. Sequencing and strategizing in bringing ideas closer to the viewer at an early age (starting with visually conceptual materials, followed by ideas, news and social media, which have taken have left an impression since childhood that they convey the fact of what is happening). The impact of social media platforms on emotional intelligence plays a major role in instilling destructive and irrational ideologies in the mindset of the user through publications, articles, and videos, while communicating with inciting extremist groups, in addition to facilitating communication amongst extremists, terrorists and ideologues of terrorist agenda in such a way that innocent people fall into the trap and be exploited through emotional intelligence, thus be blackmailed by publishing information about them, which may be true (private) or false (rumors).

7. Regarding the mechanism of encountering such influences, the speaker explained that the change should begin with reflection and awareness on this subject and with seeking to change the behavior through internal action and reliance on credible means and sources to take up any new and proper idea or information, while staying away from intolerant and opinionated people who are not able to engage in dialogue, critical, logical and analytical thinking. Additionally, we must adhere to the humanity of the individual, the family and the society, and finally to rely on moderation as a way of life in our culture. While talking about moderation, the speaker referred to three types of extremism:

(1) Religious extremism: Contravening moderation in religious behavior.

(2) Behavioral extremism: Contravening the controls of education, morality, ethics, appearances, behavior, customs and traditions.

(3) Intellectual extremism: Contravening the ideological rules governed and regulated by society, environment and moderate religion.

This depends on extremism, fanaticism, destructive ideas, blind imitation, and the negative view of life, etc. This may lead

to the disruption of the role of reason, extremism and delusion, and ultimately to extremism and terrorism. That is why we find that Islam calls for employing the mind and lays emphasis on the freedom of belief. On the other hand, extremists exploit the religious aspect to achieve their goals where they reflect an abominating image of religion, question people's faith, and seek to misrepresent the truth and divide society.

The mass media expert also indicated that emotional terrorism targets the emotions of victims regardless of the role of mind, seeking to isolate victimized people psychologically. That is why they are often called "misguided". Today, terrorism is no longer only confined to the use of force and violence in promoting terrorist ideologies and arguments, but it also includes psychological methods, deception and delusion. The speaker confirms that terrorists seek to control emotional intelligence in two directions:

1) Direct Method

Extremists use all tools of advertising, seeking to reach out to all segments of society, controlling emotional intelligence and exploiting ignorance and naivety supported by recruitment and direct planning. Terrorists also seek to develop a sense of inferiority in the victimized people and create a motive and an internal argument for aggression and transgression, thus showing what they think of as courage through terrorist methods, as well as exploiting the psychological trauma faced by the victimized people and employing such wiles and ruses in ways that serve their goals and ambitions.

2) Indirect Method

The availability of digital war games online is one of the indirect methods used by terrorists to promote their extremist ideologies, for digital war games sustain erratic behavior into the subconscious, while seeking to lure and entice the victimized people with all types and forms of life pleasures available. The speaker concluded by talking about how extremist groups use emotional intelligence to trigger terrorism and extremism against individuals and society; he said: "the process of influencing societies largely takes place in three ways: psychological, religious, and security."





A DELEGATION FROM PRESIDENCY OF THE STAFF OF SULTAN OF OMAN'S ARMED FORCES VISITS IMCTC



IMCTC Secretary-General, Major-General Mohammed Saeed Al-Mogheri, received on Monday, 15-08-2022, at the IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh, a delegation from the Presidency of the Staff of Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces, led by Commodore Eisa Salem Al-Owaisi, Assistant Chief of Staff of Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces for Management and Supplies.

The visiting delegation received a detailed briefing on the IMCTC counterterrorism efforts, combating violent extremism, coordination of all efforts in confronting terrorist threats through ideology, communications, combating terrorist financing and military initiatives, as well as the all-out efforts in coordinating and intensifying the contribution of the IMCTC member countries.

In the meeting with the Omani delegation, IMCTC Secre-

tary-General pointed out that IMCTC is founded on the values of legitimacy, independence, coordination, participation and further seeks to ensure that all the IMCTC member countries' counter-terrorism actions are in line with international law, norms and regulations.

On his part, Commodore Al-Owaisi paid tribute to the great efforts made by IMCTC to the member countries through the IMCTC strategy and initiatives.

It is worth noting that IMCTC comprises 42 member countries that work in concert to better coordinate, streamline and support ideology, communications, CTF and military efforts effectively and efficiently in partnership with friendly countries and international organizations to counter-terrorism.



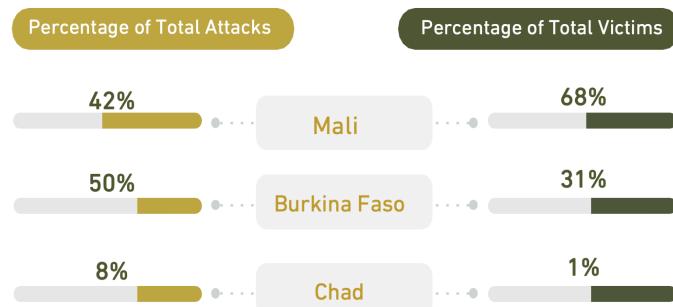


Terrorism in G5 Sahel Countries, August 2022



In the central Sahel region, the current situation indicates persistent instability; the year 2022 seems to be the bloodiest for Burkina Faso and Mali since the outbreak of the Sahel crisis more than a decade ago. The intensity of conflict, measured by the number of terrorist incidents, remains the highest in Burkina Faso among the Sahel countries. Meanwhile, the deaths reported so far in 2022 rank the highest in Mali, which restored its position as the epicenter of the crisis. Only Niger and Chad show better performance in 2022 as conflict-related deaths begin to decline.

Country	Terrorist attacks		Victims (Deaths and Injuries)	
	July 2021	August 2022	July 2021	August 2022
Burkina Faso	9	6	86	45
Mali	15	5	108	98
Chad	0	1	0	2
Niger	2	0	26	0
Mauritania	0	0	0	0
Total	26	12	220	145



Sectors Targeted by Terrorist Attacks



Terrorist Attacks and Victims by Terrorist Group

DAESH in the Greater Sahara

Mali 78 2

Impact of Terrorist Attacks by Tactics Used



Key Political and Security Developments in a Nutshell

(Mali) sends 49 Ivorian soldiers to prison on charges of undermining the country's security; France pulls out its last soldiers from Mali.

(Burkina Faso) announces a military plan to strengthen the army presence in some towns and creates the 26th Infantry Commandos Regiment to counter terrorism.

(Niger) Fifteen activist civil society organizations in Niger an-

nounced the creation of a movement called "M62 Sacred Union for the Preservation of Sovereignty and Dignity of the People" to stand against the French military presence in the country.

(Chad) Works of the national dialogue in Chad kicked off with regional and international participation.

(Mauritania) The World Bank lends \$30 million to Mauritania.



IMCTC CONGRATULATES SEVERAL MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THEIR NATIONAL DAYS AND INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARIES

IMCTC extended congratulations to the Republics of Benin, Niger, Chad, Pakistan, Gabon, Afghanistan and the Kingdom Malaysia on their respective national days and anniversaries of independence, wishing them greater security and prosperity.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF AND TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21 pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution No. (72/165) to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to further promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. With this in mind, IMCTC affirms that it is committed to countering terrorism and violent extremism. Equally important, it strongly condemns acts of violence and terrorism that target nations and societies.

On this occasion, we remember the speech delivered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres: "We reflect on the pain and suffering of those who have lost loved ones; we resolve to listen to them and learn from them. We commit to support survivors scarred by heinous acts of terrorism by amplifying their voices, protecting their rights, and seeking justice."