



IMCTC SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS WITH UAE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS



H.E. UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Bawardi, received IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 in Abu Dhabi. During the meeting, the two parties reviewed venues of cooperation, common visions, and ways of boosting relations to accomplish the desired counter-terrorism goals.

Jordanian Defense Attaché Visits IMCTC



On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received the Defense Attaché of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Brig. Gen. Fakhry Yassin Al Alawi. H.E. Defense Attaché was briefed on IMCTC efforts across its four counter-terrorism domains and on its role in coordinating the efforts of the member countries. Brig. Gen. Fakhri Al Alawi commended the role of IMCTC in countering extremism and terrorism. During the meeting, avenues of cooperation between the IMCTC and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were discussed.

The Director of Malaysian Defense Intelligence Visits IMCTC



On Monday, February 13, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Moghedi, received H.E. Defense Intelligence Director General of the Malaysian Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Datuk Ahmad Norihan bin Jalal, and his accompanying delegation.

H.E. Lt. Gen. Norihan praised the role IMCTC plays to serve the interests of the member countries regarding the various fields of counterterrorism, commending the achievements of the IMCTC in countering terrorism and violent extremist ideology, as well as across the rest of other CT domains



KUWAIT DELEGATES CELEBRATES 62ND NATIONAL DAY

On Sunday, February 26, 2023, the State of Kuwait delegates celebrated their 62nd National Day which falls on February 25 of every year, in the presence of the Secretary-General of IMCTC, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Moghedi. On this occasion, Brig. Gen. Salah Khaled Al-Hamdan gave a speech in the presence of IMCTC member countries' delegates, and personnel, in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation to them and to HE Secretary-General.

Brig. Gen. Al-Hamdan also extended his thanks and blessings to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al Sabah. His thanks and appreciation were also extended to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God protect him, and the Crown Prince, HRH Emir Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz who founded this great coalition that aims at defeating terrorism.

Brig. Gen. Salah Khaled Al-Hamdan reviewed the strategic location of the State of Kuwait that lies at the end of the navigation route, and the characteristic involvement of Kuwaitis in trade and transportation. He divided the rise of Kuwait into three main phases. The first phase is the pre-oil era, which witnessed Kuwaitis' cooperation, their work in trade, and then their establishment of the Shura Council and the Municipal Council.

Then he spoke about the second phase, post-oil era, which witnessed the beginning of oil discovery, the establishment of the Education Council, and the Kuwaiti Oil Council. Kuwait is, in fact, the fifth country in oil reserves at the global level. In this phase,

Kuwait also witnessed enactment of the constitution during the reign of Abdullah Al-Salem (Father of the Constitution) and Kuwait's accession to the United Nations and the Arab League. It also witnessed the construction of the largest University City in Kuwait. The State of Kuwait has always supported the Palestinian cause and has been an active member of the Gulf Cooperation Council since its establishment in 1981. In the third phase, Brig. Gen. Al-Hamdan spoke about Kuwait after liberation and the changes that took place in the State since Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad granted women their political rights and signed several agreements pertaining to the fields of defense and trade.

Brig. Gen. Al Hamdan also shed light on Kuwait's experience with the acts of terrorism and how Kuwait was able to overcome such acts with wisdom and skill, giving the example of the hijacking of Kazma plane and the cafe bombings in the same year. He also cited the terrorist act of Jabriya plane hijacking, the occupation of Kuwait by the Baathist regime and, recently, the bombing of Al-Sadiq Mosque during prayer time in the blessed month of Ramadan.

At the end of his speech, Brig. Gen. Salah Khaled Al-Hamdan thanked his fellow delegates of the State of Kuwait, Brig. Gen. Amer Abdullah Al Dosari, Brig. Gen. Abdulaziz Ahmed Al-Rifai, and Brig. Gen. Yusuf Ahmed Al-Rifai.

■ Kuwait Overview

The State of Kuwait is located in the northwestern corner of the Gulf, between latitudes 28.30 and 30.06 north, and longitudes 46.30 and 48.30 east. It is bordered to the north and northwest



by the Republic of Iraq, to the south and southwest by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to the east by the Arabian Gulf. Kuwait is commercially important, thanks to its location which represents a natural outlet for north-eastern Arabian Peninsula. The area of the State of Kuwait is 17,818 square km.

■ National Day

Kuwait became independent on June 19, 1961, during the reign of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The first celebration of independence was held on June 19, 1962. In 1963, the celebration date of independence was changed and merged with the date of accession of Emir Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to the throne, which falls on February 25. Since then, Kuwait has been celebrating its Independence anniversary on this date that Kuwait also takes as an official holiday.

■ Governorates

Kuwait is divided into six governorates: Ahmadi, Farwaniya, Capital, Jahra, Hawalli, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

■ Culture

The Kuwaiti society is multinational. For this reason, Kuwait's culture is diverse and vibrant. However, the influence of the Islamic as well as the Arab culture is clearly visible in architecture, music, clothing, food, and lifestyle.

Kuwait has many tourists attractions that impress the young and the old, thanks to its long history that exceeds 380 years and rapid growth that did not abandon its ancient heritage. Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya (Islamic Antiquities House), Arab Organizations HQs Building, Kuwait Towers, Al-Thrir Tower, Marine Clubs, Al-Badr House, and Kuwait Scientific Club rank among the most important sites.

■ Kuwait's International Memberships

Kuwait is a UN member and hosts some of the institutions of this Organization, such as the: International Labor Organization, World Bank, International Organization for Migration, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Human Settlements Program, United Nations Women's Agency, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and World Health Organization.

The State of Kuwait is also a member of some international organizations, such as the: International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab League, Council of Arab Economic Unity, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Gulf Cooperation Council, Association for International Development, International Finance Corporation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labor Organization, International Maritime Organization, Interpol, International Olympic Committee, Islamic Development Bank, Red Cross and Red Crescent University, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Organization of Islamic Conference, OPEC, and Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition

Sources:

Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mofa.gov.kw

United Nations in Kuwait: UN entities

Kuwait Ministry of Information: <http://media.gov.kw/>



IMCTC ADVISOR LECTURES ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, IMCTC hosted, at its headquarters, a presentation titled: International Humanitarian Law and Counterterrorism, presented by Dr. Farhat Al-Horchani, Advisor to IMCTC. The presentation discussed the basic principles of international humanitarian law, the concepts and characteristics of armed conflict, and the criteria that distinguish between international and non-international armed conflicts. He also reviewed counterterrorism theories from a legal point of view, concluding his presentation with the most important recommendations that could be used in applying the concepts of international humanitarian law in counterterrorism.

■ The Concept of International Humanitarian Law

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross "ICRC", we can define the international humanitarian law as a set of rules aimed at limiting the effects of armed conflicts for humanitarian reasons. This law protects persons who do not, or no longer, take direct or active part in hostilities. The law imposes restrictions on the means and methods of war.

■ Principles of International Humanitarian Law

Dr. Farhat Al-Horchani started the presentation by talking about the basic principles of international humanitarian law and counterterrorism, saying that the international humanitarian law is subject to several central principles. The first one is the principle of humanity, which means the protection of human dignity, such as renouncement of brutality in fighting, unnecessary cruelty, and mutilation of dead bodies; or refraining from targeting those unable to fight (hor de combat), or those who surrendered and stopped fighting, or the wounded. This principle applies to all situations that are not covered by the conventions of international humanitarian law on the grounds that humanity prescribes a certain level of respect for the human life.

Next is the principle of distinction. This principle stipulates that it is the duty of those who participate in an armed conflict to distinguish, in all circumstances, between civilians and combatants, between civilian targets and military objects. Several rules derive from this basic principle, including the prohibition of the use of human shields, hostage taking, and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian targets. Thus, international humanitarian law grants the parties to an international armed conflict the status of legitimate combat-

ants as long as they respect international humanitarian law, and subsequently grants them the status of prisoners of war when they are arrested. It also prevents civilians from taking part in war operations, and considers them as illegal combatants if they do so.

The third principle is that of proportionality, which means that the harm inflicted on the opponent should be proportionate with the military advantages that could be achieved by the use of force. A case in point is the prohibition of attacks against legitimate military targets if such attacks are expected to cause casualties among civilian population, and the prohibition of attacks that are excessive in view of the expected damage. The principle also prohibits excessive damage, unwarranted pains, and random attacks.

■ The Concept of Armed Conflict

Dr. Ferhat Al-Horchani explained that, for the armed conflict to be considered as such, it should meet several conditions established by the international humanitarian law. An armed conflict differs from situations of unrest and internal disturbances such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence, and other acts of similar nature that are not considered armed conflicts.

An armed conflict is a real situation that assumes a higher level of intensity in terms of the:

- number of participants
 - number of casualties.
 - duration of conflict.
 - organization, discipline, and structure of the parties involved.
- In other words, the armed forces or groups must show a certain degree of organization and leadership structure as well as the ability to respect the international law.

■ Conditionality of armed conflict

For the of international humanitarian law to apply, there must be an armed conflict, otherwise there is no legal meaning for the term "combatant" from the point of view of international humanitarian law. This means that one of the basic conditions for the application of international humanitarian law is the fulfillment of the condition of armed conflict, whether international or non-international. Therefore, when individuals are captured outside an armed conflict, there is no ground to subject them to the international humanitarian law, for the rules applicable here

are governed by national law and human rights law.

■ **Distinction between armed conflicts**

The presentation discussed the characteristics and criteria that distinguish between international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts:

■ **International armed conflict:**

It is a conflict that arises between members of the armed forces of two or more countries (or the militias associated with them) and, for that matter, they are considered as legitimate combatants subject to the terms of the four Geneva Conventions. The Third Convention regulates the protection granted to lawful combatants when they are captured as prisoners of war, but under certain conditions, such as accountable leadership, carrying a distinctive badge, carrying weapons openly, and adhering to the laws of war. Unlawful combatants or "unprivileged combatants" are not granted "the prisoner of war" status. They are subject to the Fourth Geneva Convention (relating to civilians) and may continue to be detained; they may also be prosecuted for war crimes and other crimes.

■ **Non-international armed conflict:**

It is an armed conflict, in which the parties are a state or state-affiliated on the one hand, and dissident groups, rebel movements or separatist movements on the other hand. Protocol II regulates the rules of this conflict with the aim of protecting civilians, the wounded and the sick, and prohibits terrorist acts. Violations of these rules are criminalized by international law which considers them as international crimes. It follows that all parties, including the militant parties, are committed to international humanitarian law, including, of course, the prohibition of terrorist acts. Besides, in non-international armed conflicts, the status of "combatant" or "prisoner-of-war" is not given to those participating in hostilities, and civilians who take part in hostilities may be prosecuted under the national criminal law.

■ **Counterterrorism**

We usually, use the term "counterterrorism" or "global or all-out counterterrorism" although we know that it is somehow difficult to define the concept of terrorism despite the clarity of the elements of the definition. One of the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts is that there has been a major controversy and conflicting opinions about the concept of "counterterrorism". This has clearly appeared in the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. So far, there is no standard answer to the question:

Is "counterterrorism" a "war" in the legal sense?

The Advisor's answer was that there are two theories that could be used to get the answer:

The first theory states that counterterrorism is a war in the legal sense. According to this theory, this profound transformation in the conception of war was the consequence of the events of September 11, 2001, and the war against "Daesh". The emergence of terrorist networks capable of launching attacks that are quite similar to war, in terms of the number of casualties, the magnitude of attacks, and the possibility of carrying them out in all countries, made them border on acts of war. The result is that the world has come to grips with a new type of violent extremism to which the laws of armed conflict should apply. This violence is not confined to traditional conflicts between states; it has rather become transnational and transcontinental.

The second theory asserts that the war against terrorism is not a war in the legal sense. This theory believes that terrorism is

not a new phenomenon, and it does not, all by itself, justify that this criminal phenomenon represents an armed conflict. The theory believes that the term "war" on terrorism would not fully convey the meaning, and it is better to use the term "fighting" terrorism, because the important aspect of eradicating terrorism does not consist only of military actions, but also includes means other than war, which include intelligence, judicial, diplomatic and financial techniques such as investigations, funds freezing, arms control as well as the preventive intellectual, religious, cultural, media and legal mechanisms and international cooperation. Terrorism can only be eradicated by addressing its and causes, not just its consequences.

■ **Counterterrorism is a real war!**

Dr. Al-Horchani affirms that "counterterrorism" is a real, multi-faceted war, yet it is not a traditional war against a certain "party" in the sense of international humanitarian law. Terrorists are often invisible, hard-to-recognize enemies who use weapons and methods that are different from those used by conventional combatants. Characteristically, terrorists spread terror, which is strictly prohibited by the international humanitarian law. Inherent in this difference is their ability to cause material as well as moral damage. Therefore, war has evolved because arms have evolved, and risks have evolved too. Yet, on the other hand, the law has not evolved with similar speed and easiness.

■ **Application of international humanitarian law**

The importance of applying international humanitarian law becomes clearer as acts of terrorism occur during armed conflicts or in times of peace, and terrorist acts become serious violation of international humanitarian law. Counterterrorism is not necessarily subject to international humanitarian law except when these activities amount to armed conflict, whether they have an international nature as when a country resorts to the use of force against another country, or they have a national one, as when the conflicts occur between a country and a group of rebels, or between groups of rebels within the same country. In default of these conditions, the humanitarian law does not apply. Instead, a set of criminal laws (both local and international), and counterterrorism laws are applied, along with the customary law, military necessity, and human rights conventions. All of these principles do not breach the military necessity that calls for fighting and eradicating terrorism through military action.

■ **Recommendations:**

At the end of his presentation, Dr. Ferhat Al-Horchani reviewed the most important recommendations that could be useful when applying the concepts of international humanitarian law in counterterrorism. The most significant recommendations are:

1. Organizing an international conference under the supervision of the United Nations to address the problem of international terrorism.
2. Concluding a comprehensive international counterterrorism agreement under the supervision of the United Nations that should be binding on all states, especially after the emergence of terrorism as a real threat to international peace and security, along with the completion of the existing sectoral agreements and the reinforcement of the international counterterrorism legal framework.
3. Giving terrorism the attribute of an independent international crime in relation to other crimes such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

IMCTC Takes Part in 3rd Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum



Based on the commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to its humanitarian and developmental role, and under the generous patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - may Allah protect him, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center organized the Third Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum (RIHF) in the period 20-21 February 2023. Believing in the importance of asserting its presence in international platforms to highlight its counterterrorism efforts, and in the importance of communicating its message and remain in direct contact with different societies, the IMCTC was keen to avail itself of this unique opportunity to achieve various objectives.

The most prominent gain was to meet with important personalities that visited the exhibition. The purpose was to introduce them to the Coalition and its counter-extremism efforts, build bridges of communication and cooperation with them, and introduce them to centers specialized in research on extremism and terrorism. Additionally, it sought to open channels of cooperation with them and get acquainted with the researchers and the genuine experiences that the participants have had, that could be useful to the IMCTC. The IMCTC took the chance to distribute some of its various publications and products to specialists, researchers, and Forum visitors.

The Forum was inaugurated in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh Region. A group of leaders, donors, workers, researchers, and a number of international organizations in the

field of humanitarian work from (50) countries and nearly (60) organizations took part in the Forum. The event was an important humanitarian one in the international scene in view of the number of visitors and the diversity of participants. The most prominent and important Arab, regional and international bodies participated in finding innovative practical solutions the challenges facing humanitarian work in accordance with the principles and standards of humanitarian work. They also wished to contribute to achieving the laid out Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum came with clear and obvious goals, namely: 1) The promotion of dialogue and channels of communication between leaders, donors, workers, and researchers. 2) Exchange of experiences, ideas, and practices related to the development of humanitarian work. 3) Activation of interactive approaches between humanitarian work, development, and peace to ensure the achievement of sustainability and comprehensive development, in addition to the adaptation of technology and digital transformation for the service of human action. 4) Present the most prominent opportunities and challenges facing humanitarian work, with the aim of developing innovative solutions, in addition to the acceleration of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the humanitarian context. 5) Explore and develop the humanitarian work through scientific research and data quality governance, including studies built on evidence-based practices. 6) Encourage and engage youth in volunteer and humanitarian work.



The themes of the Forum covered the development of, and response to, humanitarian needs, in addition to data collection and analysis to support humanitarian action, as well as proactive action and enhancement of flexibility in local communities, along with the realization of sustainable development goals using the approach of interaction between humanitarian action, development, peace and, finally, the challenges to humanitarian action.

IMCTC's booth was keen to achieve its objectives by coordinating military and relief support for member countries to enable them to defeat armed terrorist groups, alleviate the suffering of their population, and coordinate international relief programs within member countries whose societies have been hard-hit by terrorist actions.

Through its participation in the Forum, the IMCTC aimed to introduce itself and show the efforts it has been making to counter-terrorism and to assert its presence in international cultural platforms that reflect its role and efforts in the international community, in addition. It also aimed to establish contact bridges with prominent figures worldwide to achieve a self-made distinctive profile. The Forum was also an opportunity to open channels of cooperation with international organizations in the field of humanitarian work, and to get acquainted with distinctive research and cultural experiences. Furthermore, the meeting was a chance for IMCTC to contribute to the development of its capacities and academic infrastructure, and to establish contact with communities and deliver its noble message by means of visual messages

and distribution of publications and research paper to specialists, while garnering visitors' opinions and reactions which will be documented and utilized for the purpose of enhancing IMCTC's communication and media campaigns.

Distinguished Figures Visit IMCTC's Booth

- H.E. Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel Al-Jubair.
- H.E. Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Wasel.
- Special Advisor to the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Eng. Muhammad Al-Sa'ati.
- Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Dr. Genghis Khan, Director of UN Office of Counterterrorism.
- Dr. Ali Haji Adam Abu Bakr, Minister of Health, State of Somalia.
- Mr. Balthasar Staehelin, Special Envoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Mr. Rezky Mohamed, Global Coordinator at IOM.
- Ms. Adele Khodr, UNICEF Director, of MENA Region.

An introductory briefing about the history of IMCTC was given, starting its first announced and creation by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince, (then) Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Council of Defense Ministers of member countries, in addition to the first meeting of the member countries' chiefs of staff. Similarly, the briefing covered the reinforcement of IMCTC's positive mental image and the members' efforts in combating terrorism, and raising awareness of the dangers of terrorism, and of the practical mechanisms and models to combat by means of distributing IMCTC's publications.



KSA's Delegate to IMCTC Discusses Cyber- Incitement Crimes



On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, IMCTC held at its headquarters, a presentation titled: "Incitement to Terrorist Crimes in Cyberspace and Preventive Methods", delivered by Dr. Mohammed bin Salman Al-Subaihi, delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the IMCTC in the communications domain. In the presentation, he touched on the concept of using information technology for terrorist acts. He pointed out that some of terrorism-related crimes committed by means of information technology focus on the promotion of terrorist groups' ideas and principles, operations training and financing, facilitation of communications among terrorist organizations, and dissemination of methods of crafting explosive materials that are particularly used in terrorist operations, over and above the promotion of strife, sedition, and attacks on religions and beliefs.

■ Developments of Cyber Terrorism Concept

The emergence of the Internet, its fast developments and multiple applications have helped the world to become a small village, in view of the easy flow of information and communication through modern technologies, which led to cultural mess. Although the ease of information transmission may have many positive effects, it may also have serious negative effects when misused. With the negative use of this network and its relative its relative applications, appeared the concept of cyberterrorism the first time in the mid-eighties in the study of "Collin Barry". Later on, this concept went viral to express a new criminal phenomenon of terrorism whose aim was to realize the same results of traditional terrorism using Internet and information technology.

■ Information Terrorism

At the beginning of the presentation, Dr. Al-Subaihi defined information or cyberterrorism in terms of Shanghai Information Security Agreement: "using or influencing information resources in the information space for achieving terrorist purposes; the source of this threat inheres in terrorist organizations and persons involved in terrorist activities who carry out illegal acts; its features include the use of information networks by terrorist organizations to carry out terrorist activities and recruit new supporters into their ranks". Dr. Al-Subaihi went on to say that the misuse of digital environment applications leads to their manipulation for committing crimes where the perpetrator becomes keen to make use of it to carry out his criminal project, eventually leading to the emergence of new forms of cybercrime, most notably cyber incitement.

■ The Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offenses

The Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offenses, of the phenomenon of cyber terrorism, emphasized the use of information technology for terrorist acts. Article 15 of the Convention enumerated the crimes related to terrorism committed by means of information technology as: 1- Promoting and advocating terrorist groups' ideas and principles, 2- Financing and training terrorist operations, and facilitating contacts within terrorist organizations, 3- Promoting the methods of crafting explosives that are pointedly used in terrorist operations, and, 4- Promoting strife, sedition, and attack on religions and beliefs."

■ Cyber-Incitement Concept

Dr. Al-Subaihi viewed the concept of incitement for terrorist crimes as "creating the idea of crime in the offender's psyche, and creating the determination to commit it, while prompting him to carry it out by any means". Cyber incitement is not much different from traditional incitement, and we can distinguish it by the fact that it uses electronic means, including social media. In this sense, cyber incitement is the electronic version of traditional incitement as it uses the computer systems to send out a message to the public with the intent to incite them to terrorist crimes, directly or indirectly.

■ Characteristics of Cyber Incitement

Cyber incitement is distinguished from the traditional one in many aspects. Below are its most important characteristics:

1. It uses sound and visual effects, images and videos to enhance the role of the inciter to carry out his criminal plan.
2. It is more accurate, faster, and much less expensive than incitement by traditional means, which helps the inciter to reach the largest number of respondents with his instigative ideas.

3. It has multiple impact, as it reaches more than one country with the click of a button, and therefore the crime can be committed by a perpetrator in one country against a victim in another country.

4. The cyber inciter hides himself from the target of incitement behind electronic devices and fake accounts on social media.

5. The cyber inciter can assume many roles, where he can be interrogator and respondent, critic and interlocutor, or supporter and opponent, enabling him to promote his intent. He may invite others to promote his instigative message or idea, so much that the recipient can unknowingly become the inciter.

■ Types of Cyber Incitement

Legal studies and a plenty of regulations on cyber incitement crime consider the inciter as an accomplice in the crime and, for that matter, what falls on the perpetrators of the crime falls on him. Other studies consider the incitement to crime as a crime in itself and criminalizes the inciter even if the crime did not occur as a result of the incitement, which indicates the seriousness of the crime of incitement and how important it is to combat it.

■ Major Types of Cyber Incitement Crime

1. Identification with terrorist organizations and their characters.
2. Sharing and reposting terrorist-content messages.
3. Financing terrorist operations.
4. Providing logistic services for terrorist operations and facilitating the tasks of their perpetrators.
5. Taking actual part in a terrorist operation.
6. Participation in training, as a trainer or trainee, in the field of terrorist operations.
7. Learning the methods of creating explosives that are used in the craft of terrorism.

■ Forms of Cyber Incitement

In this context, Dr. Al-Subaihi mentioned the following major forms used in the process of cyber incitement for terrorist crimes in cyberspace:

- Widely published content by the enemies of intellectual security who stand against upright ideas by publicizing destructive principles, intrigues and strife, or suspicions and plots, and conspiracies.
- Dissemination of theories and principles that contravene Islam and its teachings in various religious, moral, and scholarly fields.
- Use of material and moral temptation, pressures, restrictions, deceit, blackmail, rumors, and suspicions, and corrupt ideas to tempt some weak and gullible persons to embrace and promote them. Inciters carry out their plots while meeting some of the rules and legislations of Islam with ridicule and mockery and describing those loyal to their religion as backward and rigid. They despise and disrespect Muslim scholars, thinkers, and reformers.
- Encouraging the perpetration of terrorist crimes by providing material or financial aid without having the intention of participating directly in the perpetration of such crimes.
- Provocation of feelings, emotions and imagination and invocation of idealism that target youth and adolescents.

■ Cyber Incitement Methods

It is very difficult to enumerate the methods used in cyber incitement to terrorist crimes in cyberspace, for two main reasons. The first reason relates to the connection of methods with human behavior, which is characterized by complexity, diversity, and change. The second reason is about the digital environment,

which is characterized by rapid updating and development. However, there are several methods that have been identified by a few studies and professional experiences through access points that represent a key to the personality based on its interests, manner, and the weak points through which entry and influence on the character could be achieved. These access points are psychological, intellectual, religious, emotional, and material in nature.

■ Frequently Used Methods:

- **Provocation:** The inciter seeks to provoke the targets by moving the emotions of heroism, magnanimity, manhood, distinction, and self-actualization upon carrying out terrorist acts.
- **Extortion:** The inciter keeps an eye on targets to trap them in documented situations or actions, and then use this content to blackmail them and influence and compel them to assume terrorist roles and carry out terrorist tasks.
- **Sowing doubt and Indecision:** The inciter seeks to question the targets' convictions and their learning sources by raising suspicions, aberrant opinions, and extremist ideas, linking them to different learning sources that support these courses of action.
- **Temptation:** The inciter seeks to tempt targets by stimulating their different instincts and desires.
- **Self-fulfillment:** The inciter seeks to make idealistic promises and fanciful aspirations to his targets.
- **Threat:** The inciter seeks to threaten his targets, intimidates them, and beleaguer them repeatedly to compel them to take part in terrorist crime.

■ Preventive Methods of Cyber Incitement

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Al-Subaihi, reviewed the methods of preventing cyber incitement to terrorist crimes in the cyberspace. Such methods include:

1. Legislations that criminalize cyber incitement to terrorist crimes in cyberspace. Such legislations should be activated and regularly updated to cope with developments in cybercrime to close the gaps used by terrorists on their platforms.
2. Integration and continuous coordination among countries and organizations, and exchange of information and assistance in revealing the identities of inciters.
3. Adoption of communication and media education subject in public education, along with providing the curriculum with terms and entries that aim at immunizing male and female students against the insidious impact of cyber incitement.
4. Creation of advanced monitoring centers using artificial intelligence to monitor inciteful content in the digital environment and submit such content for analysis, source identification, and activate the law against cyber inciters.
5. Urging the media, the media and cultural elites, and social media celebrities, along several tracks, to: (create cultural and awareness content to enhance the values of self-control, the literature of conscious use of social media, create critical content to disclose inciteful content and its meanings, respond to suspicions, and correct wrong information and refute rumors).

IMCTC Organizes a Workshop on “Counterterrorism Elements”



On Sunday, 12 February 2023, the IMCTC organized a workshop for member countries' delegates titled "Elements of Counter Terrorism", moderated and delivered by, Dr. Farhat Al-Horchani, Advisor to IMCTC, in the presence of the IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Muhammad bin Saeed Al-Moghedi. The workshop aimed at formulating guidelines for the optimum elements of counterterrorism across the four domains upon which the IMCTC was founded, namely: ideology, communications, counter-terrorist financing, and military.



IMCTC Holds “Initiative Life Cycle” Workshop



On Sunday, 26 February 2023, the Planning and Coordination Department organized a workshop on “Initiative Life Cycle” in the presence of the IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al- Moghedi and IMCTC personnel. The event aimed to raise awareness about initiative life cycle. During the workshop, an explanation was made about the technical standards used in determining the priority of the initiative along with the definition of the system of powers and responsibilities, so that the task of everyone was explained and made clear. After that, a complete and detailed explanation of the initiative life cycle procedures

from start to finish was provided. An explanation of the escalation mechanism and methods of using it was also given. Then, all the forms used in the initiative life cycle were presented, and each form was explained, including how to fill it out.

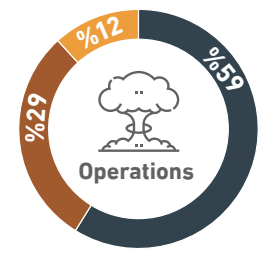
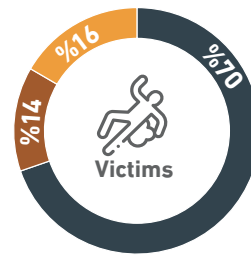
At the end of the workshop, IMCTC Secretary-General praised the work of the Planning and Coordination Department, represented by the Initiatives Section. He also reiterated the need for organizing such workshops to raise the awareness and educate all IMCTC personnel.

Terrorism in the Sahel Countries



During the month of February, the G5 Sahel countries experienced 13% increase in the number of terrorist attacks compared to January 2023. The phenomenon of terrorism in the Sahel region poses a threat to the stability of the countries of the region, as terrorist groups take advantage of the difficult circumstances there, in the presence of an environment conducive to the spread of extremism and terrorism and the absence of coordination between all the active forces to confront terrorism and extremism, in addition to the weakness of local governments and collective action mechanisms.

Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2023
Burkina Faso	9	↑ 10	83	↑ 168
Mali	6	↓ 5	44	↓ 33
Niger	0	↑ 2	0	↑ 40
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	15	↑ 17	127	↑ 241



■ Burkina Faso ■ Mali ■ Niger

Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Military Sector	Civilians	government building	Non-governmental Organizations	Security Sector
Burkina Faso	98 Victims, 4 Operations	43 Victims, 4 Operations	25 Victims, 1 Operation	2 Victims, 1 Operation	0 Victims, 0 Operations
Mali	1 Victim, 1 Operation	21 Victims, 2 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations	8 Victims, 1 Operation	3 Victims, 1 Operation
Niger	30 Victims, 1 Operation	10 Victims, 1 Operation	0 Victims, 0 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations

■ Victims ■ Operations

Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method

Explosion	23 Victims, 3 Operations	17 Victims, 2 Operations (Mali)	6 Victims, 1 Operation (Burkina Faso)	
Ambush	102 Victims, 3 Operations	72 Victims, 2 Operations (Burkina Faso)	30 Victims, 1 Operation (Niger)	
Armed Attack	116 Victims, 11 Operations	90 Victims, 7 Operations (Burkina Faso)	16 Victims, 3 Operations (Mali)	10 Victims, 1 Operation (Niger)

Major Political and Security Developments:

- **Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso announced the end of the operations of the French forces on its territory in implementation of the decision of the Burkinabe authorities to terminate the military cooperation agreement with France.
- **Mali:** The interim government in Mali said it had given the Director of the Human Rights Division in the UN Peacekeeping mission 48 hours to leave the country, after declaring that he was persona non grata.
- **Niger:** The European Council has launched a military partnership mission for the joint security and defense policy in Niger. The European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels said in a

statement that the measure was taken to support the country in its war against armed terrorist groups.

- **Chad:** Chad has opened its embassy in Israel in Tel Aviv, in the presence of the Chadian President Mohammed Déby and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This is Déby's first visit to Israel after he took over the reins of power following the death of his father, Idris Déby, in 2021.

- **Mauritania:** The Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, arrived in Mauritania, where he was received by his Mauritanian counterpart, Mohamed Salem Ould Marzouk, at Nouakchott International Airport.

IMCTC Secretary General Launches the Annual Activities and Events Program



In the context of consolidation of efforts and joint action, exchange of knowledge, experiences among the delegates of IMCTC member countries and working hand in hand to achieve the strategic goals of countering and eliminating terrorism, IMCTC development work team inaugurated the annual activities and events program on February 6, 2023.

The inauguration was made by the team member Mrs. Reham Bint Obaid Al Enezi. The contents of the 2023 IMCTC annual program varied from training programs and various academic activities

to meaningful field visits that aimed at getting acquainted with genuine experiences in all fields. The inauguration took place in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi and the delegates of IMCTC member countries and IMCTC personnel.

Colleague Reham Al-Enezi outlined the main targets that the program seeks to accomplish by the end of 2023, which total 74 activities and events.



IMCTC Congratulates Member Countries on their National Days

The IMCTC congratulated the Republic of Gambia and the State of Brunei Darussalam on their independence anniversaries, which falls on to February 18 and 23, 2023 respectively. The IMCTC wished them and their people greater security and prosperity. Countries and people celebrate their national occasions owing to their great impact in strengthening their sense of belonging to the homeland and promoting the concept of unity, brotherhood, tolerance, and peace among societies.