



# منها لفرق

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 52, June 2023

## IMCTC RECEIVES HIS EXCELLENCY THE DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA



IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received HE the Defense minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Abdul Qadir Muhammad Nur, and his accompanying delegation on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The Minister toured IMCTC headquarters and met with delegates of Member States. Minister Nur commended IMCTC efforts across various domains, and praised the tremendous support by the Saudi government to eradicate violent extremism and terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

## AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK VISITS IMCTC



IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received HE the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Saudi Arabia, Mrs. Liselotte Plesner, on Monday, June 5, 2023. During the visit, Mrs. Plesner was briefed on the activities of IMCTC in combating terrorism. She also listened to a detailed explanation of IMCTC efforts in combating terrorism across its four domains, and commended IMCTC efforts in the fields of combating terrorism. During the visit, they discussed issues of common interest between IMCTC and the Kingdom of Denmark.

## ADVISER OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO VISITS IMCTC



On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received Colonel Moussa Cissé, Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burkina Faso, and his accompanying delegation. During the visit, Colonel Cissé listened to a detailed explanation of IMCTC efforts in fighting terrorism across its four domains, and its role in coordinating efforts in the fight against terrorism among Member States. The visit aims to facilitate exchanging information among IMCTC Member States, conclude agreements, cooperate and hold partnerships to enhance anti-terrorism capabilities across Member States. It is worth noting that the Republic of Burkina Faso is one of the active IMCTC Member States since its establishment.

## IMCTC WELCOMES A DELEGATION FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MODERATION



HE Dr. Saud bin Saad Al-Boqami, Acting Deputy of Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Institute for Moderation (PKIM) and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. During the visit, PKIM delegation listened to a detailed explanation of IMCTC efforts to combat and limit propagation of extremist beliefs and ideas. Such efforts seek to advocate the values of moderate Islam by adopting a comprehensive and balanced approach and intellectually contributing to the reform of extremist discourse towards more moderation. IMCTC is entrusted as a platform to generate and disseminate knowledge about the values and tolerance of Islam by developing and implementing integration and rehabilitation programs for extremist thoughts.



## TOGO DELEGATE GIVES A PRESENTATION ON VISUAL AND AUDIO MEDIA

IMCTC held a presentation on Sunday, June 12, 2023, titled "Visual and Audio Media and Its Role in Combating Terrorism." It was delivered by the Delegate of the Republic of Togo to IMCTC, Major Andy Blackim Aklissu, and attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of Member States, and all IMCTC personnel.

IMCTC Secretary-General emphasized the role played by the media in the context of the war on terrorism to educate and raise public awareness. Audio-visual media, he added, bear a much greater responsibility than the Internet, as terrorists easily use the internet to disseminate their poisonous ideologies and misleading information. Despite that, audiovisual media face increasing criticism, whether in their working mechanisms that tend to serve the media propaganda of terrorists, or in their freedom of action, which often hinders the efforts of relevant parties in their war against terrorism.

### **It is also prudent to address the constructive role of audio-visual media within the media field of IMCTC.**

The session aimed generally at opening discussions about this important topic, which is closely related to the media field. The specific objective was to highlight the constructive role that audio-visual media should play within the scope of their duties, which usually tend to hinder any efforts made in combating terrorism, negatively affecting the daily life of individuals and society.

### **The presenter began his talk by defining audio-visual media.**

He stated that it is commonly agreed upon that audio-visual media are considered devices for the production, distribution, and dissemination of information through public broadcasting via radio and television. Such media are transmitted through audio frequency waves, satellites, coaxial cables, or optical fibers, and they can also be streamlined by internet channels, such as YouTube.

These media means carry information over to a wide audience, including residents of cities and remote villages, creating a greater impact than other forms of print media like newspapers, the internet, or social media platforms that allow their viewers or

listeners to choose their content of preference.

He further added that audio-visual media are usually owned by the state and, in some cases, owned by the private sector. They are characterized by having a specialized and trained workforce in this field. These media are considered part of the information sources for researchers, international institutions, and organizations for study and statistical purposes.

In conclusion, audio-visual media, in my opinion, are reference sources for disseminating information.

### **■ Pressures Faced by Workers in Audio-visual Media**

The lecturer touched upon the pressures faced by workers in audio-visual media by analyzing an article published by the French magazine *Pouvoir* in November 1984. He arrived at the following conclusion, which is not comprehensive but closely related to the analysis of the nature and functions of audio-visual media.

- Audio-visual media have a political nature and form what is known as the 'fourth estate', given their institutional or implicit nature. Based on this perspective and according to the liberal concept (commonly agreed upon in journalistic ethics), these mediums enjoy freedom of expression, which enables them to perform their basic roles by information to the public, expressing their needs and emotions, commenting, and expressing opinions on events, individuals, and situations, thus fulfilling their perceived role of education and awareness.

### **However, the reality in these media outlets is not absolute, as news selection and commentary on events can sometimes be based on personal biases.**

In fact, Media messages are the result of power balance between three types of pressure, as follows:

- Institutional entities (such as public authorities, major interest groups, major international institutions, etc.): These entities use commercials, paid services to broadcast information, and sometimes, they even direct broadcast information without editing



as in the case of official press releases.

- The pressures within the news broadcasting process itself: Editors enforce their editorial line or the free will of journalists who impose a specific direction of information.

- The last pressure is imposed by the listeners and viewers themselves, as audience views are surveyed and media supervisors adapt their methods accordingly. Similarly, the reactions and sensitivities of the audience or the owners of the commercial direct the media supervisors to broadcast content that suits the audience.

### ■ Security Concerns in the Media Business

In addition to the description of traditional media, which generally does not allow us to categorize their work as impeccable, we observe a more troubling trend regarding the direction that media are taking nowadays.

To highlight this point, Emmanuel Todd, a French historian and anthropologist, describes the growing power of the media in general, and the press in particular, as a dangerous "ideology". According to Todd, journalism, as a proper name, represents a new ideology in much the same way that communism, and capitalism, etc. are defined.

This development of journalism is extremely critical, because of the freedom it enjoys, Todd says:

"Nowadays, the only freedom that matters is the journalist's freedom, taking into account the idea that the journalist is superior to the politician. The press leads public opinion, and fuels wars. It is uncontrollable and hinders governments or politicians' work, and, therefore, we must realize the seriousness of such matter."

This awareness must be raised immediately, "because we will face an increasingly dangerous situation at the international level where the risks will increase. It can be said that the media acts as a motivator to abandon responsibility" and a catalyst for conflicts.

This explains the power of professional journalists versus professional actors in such a field. Accordingly, it is very difficult to prosecute journalists due to such freedom of expression, despite most violations come from their part.

### ■ Certain Unwelcome Roles of the Media

• In his talk, Blakem added that a number of political officials and even some writers have denounced some audio-visual media methods in certain situations.

• In his book 'The Black Book of Terrorism', Jean-Paul Ney reported that after the September 11 attacks in 2001, "the media, especially television, were indirectly involved in promoting negative propaganda against Islam and Muslims. The images broadcasted during live coverages have indeed reflected all the horrifying actions, but on the other hand, they have been used to prove an untrue myth of Al-Qaeda's terrorist power and capability."

• Not long ago, in the African continent, major media outlets with large audience were denounced by many governments.

• On March 17, 2023, the General Staff of the French Army released videos showing dead bodies near a military base in the Republic of Mali. These videos were picked up by the French media, which accused the Malian army of committing violations against civilians in its war against terrorism. As a result, both Radio France International (RFI) and the French state television (France 24) were permanently suspended from broadcasting in the Republic of Mali. It should be noted that this West African country has been suffering severely since 2013 from attacks by terrorist groups such as Al-

Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), ISIS in the Sahara (EIGS), and JNIM.

• On March 27, 2023, in another incident, the Republic of Burkina Faso stopped broadcasting France 24 after broadcasting an interview with one of Al-Qaeda leaders. The government explained that the suspension of the channel was on grounds that such an interview "may be used by media to legitimize terrorist acts and promote hate speech."

• On December 3, 2022, Burkina Faso had already suspended the broadcast of RFI due to airing a "terror message" attributed to a "terrorist leader", which contained "false information" about the transitional government seeking to stabilize the situation by its war on terrorism.

• On March 13, 2023, a West African president publicly criticized RFI for "praising bad things (about terrorism) that only exist in imaginary worlds", in addition to condemning the release of reports of repeated attacks by terrorists on part of that country's territory as being inaccurate.

Nevertheless, if such media claim that its purpose is to disclose information to the various parties of the conflict in an unbiased manner, it should be borne in mind that terrorism cannot be a means of liberation, as confirmed by leading lawyers in international humanitarian law.

### Our Expectations from the Media

It goes without question that terrorism has caused the loss of many lives, including innocent civilians. It has also severely damaged the lives of the people by destroying civilian infrastructure.

Given the importance of audio-visual media, in terms of credibility, impact and people's strong attachment to it, and in the context of the global fight against terrorism, the media should be an important part of the system that shapes the public opinion that condemns the terrible acts of terrorists. Furthermore, media should avoid the language that promotes terrorist propaganda.

In addition to that, the media should be aware of its bias in selecting the information collected by journalists and its bias in commenting on it. Correspondingly, the media must be aware of the harm that this bias can cause to the efforts of the concerned parties, especially in their fight against terrorism, which makes it imperative for these means to follow a specific editorial line on the fight against terrorism.

### Conclusion

The presenter concluded his talk by confirming that, nowadays, all media, including mainstream media, the Internet and social media, offer quick and easy access to information throughout the day.

However, it is important to note that online media (information and online advertising sites, interactive sites) and other social networks have this accessible feature 'to confirm' that all readers are accustomed to such means. Moreover, the print press does not have the same influence compared to the audio-visual media. It is not as widespread as audio-visual media (television and radio) that can reach all over the world without any deliberate effort on the part of the viewer and listener.

No one can deny the importance of preserving the freedom of the media to express opinions by allowing them to address the raw facts with all their intersections and contradictions, however, the audio-visual media must be part of providing security to the people in their fight against terrorism so that the media becomes is a building tool, not a tool of demolition.

## FI AL-JUBERI DELIVERED A PRESENTATION AT IMCTC



IMCTC organized an informative presentation titled "Secure and Trusted Cyberspace" on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. The presentation was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of Member States, and IMCTC personnel. The presentation was delivered by Fi Al-Juberi, Chief Cybersecurity Specialist at the National Cybersecurity Authority. It focused on major security risks and how to avoid them. Al-Juberi began by defining cybersecurity as the protection of networks, information technology systems, and operating systems, including hardware, software, services, and data, from any unauthorized access, disruption, modification, entry, use, or misuse. The concept of cybersecurity includes information security, electronic security, digital security, etc.

### ■ 90% of Cyber Incidents are caused by Human Error

**On identifying attackers, their targets and motives,** Al-Juberi said that attackers can be state-sponsored groups, internal criminals, terrorists, individuals, and amateurs. They target governments, businesses, economy, and community. The typical objectives include espionage to obtain sensitive information, disrupting infrastructure, seeking fame, proving capabilities, damaging reputation, manipulating or destroying important information, and stealing money.

In her discussion of how attackers can have access to individuals, the presenter mentioned that it can be achieved through electronic phishing, unlawful access, malicious links, social engineering, malicious files and software, and public internet networks.

Will cyber threats come to an end? The presenter answered that they will not stop but rather they will continue to develop with the improvements we see now in Artificial Intelligence, telemedicine (remote healthcare), Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning. This means an increase in the threat of cyber-attacks, service disruption, data breaches, cyber deception, and life threatening.

**Regarding cybersecurity threats, the presenter added** that human resources are the most powerful link for defense within organizations to mitigate and neutralize cyber threats. Cybersecurity awareness of the risks and threats is also crucial to effectively contribute to the protection of information assets inside buildings.

**Under the heading "You are the Target,"** at work, in the field, at home, or during travel;

Al-Juberi stressed that devices and information, especially social media platforms, are of high value. Some information may not seem valuable to you personally, but in reality, it is more valuable to the hacker.

**To protect your data,** it is important to avoid storing sensitive information on public clouds and ensure encryption of sensitive files before sharing them. It is also essential to monitor that the external parties comply with cybersecurity policies and to avoid sending sensitive information over public networks.

### ■ Monitoring External Parties

This refers to parties with whom an organization interacts, such as business partners, information service providers, importers, cloud computing providers, and others. Data breaches are one of the most significant cyber risks associated with external parties, as 53% of global companies have experienced one or more incidents of data breaches via external parties.

**Social Engineering** is also a broad concept in cybersecurity that relies on hackers exploiting psychological aspects to influence individuals into disclosing confidential information or engaging in illegitimate activities through social media platforms, direct and personalized email and text messages, and even through mobile phones.

On how to protect ourselves against social engineering, Al-Juberi advised not to respond to suspicious and fraudulent messages. She also stressed not to trust anyone outside the organization in addition to avoid sharing personal information with untrusted individuals or entities, and to verify the identity of the caller. She finally advised to be cautious of any suspicious links on social media platforms.

To avoid the risks of phishing, Al-Juberi also emphasized the importance of constantly verifying the sender's identity, avoiding sending any sensitive information, hovering over links before clicking on them. Also handling email attachments with caution, and examining attachments for grammatical errors in email writing, protecting devices includes ensuring that devices are updated by enabling





automatic updates, installing protective software such as antivirus programs, and downloading software and updates only from official sources.

The presenter mentioned that the aims of malware include stealing sensitive information, data destruction, data misuse, infrastructure disruption, and malware spread through removable storage devices like USBs and CDs, email attachments, and websites containing malicious programs.

#### ■ Safe Internet and Social Media Usage

Before concluding, the presenter emphasized that web browsers are the most common tools for accessing information on the Internet. Privacy breaches can lead to stealing of important information, including user identity, through stealing, replacing, or deleting the personal information. Also targeting computers with malware programs (i.e., malicious software) and restrict unauthorized use of computers or systems. In addition, best practices for web browsing include not providing personal information to unknown or unsafe websites, and ensuring to log out of websites once finished, and closing your internet browser.

She also advised to keep the operating system and browser updated with the latest versions. She also asserted using social media securely, the user should secure the privacy settings of accounts on mobile devices and to be cautious when using certain applications such as games that request access to personal contacts. It is important to avoid sharing sensitive information such as home addresses and identity numbers. Finally, to be cautious about sharing anything that could lead to legal accountability.

#### ■ Protecting Your Family against Cyber Risks

Al-Juberi emphasized raising awareness in the family about cyber risks, in that not everything they see on the Internet is necessarily true, and not all individuals online use their real identities. It is important to set rules and guidelines that all family members, including children, should follow in the cyber space and to ensure that all internet-connected devices at home are appropriately protected. To use appropriate privacy and security settings for your children's ages when accessing websites, online gaming networks, or smart applications.

The presenter concluded with some misconceptions that need to be corrected, including:

01

The misconception that cybersecurity is solely the responsibility of technical and cybersecurity professionals.

02

The misconception that individual users are immune to cyber breaches.

03

The misconception that if a breach occurs on your device, it won't affect your organization.

04

The misconception that reporting cyber accidents is not the responsibility of users.

05

The misconception that your device won't be attacked because you don't have any sensitive information stored on it.



## AWARENESS SESSION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AUTHORITY



Seeking to achieve IMCTC goals and principles supporting effective measures to improve prevention, detection, and mitigation of terrorist activities through relevant consultations aimed at promoting protection and enhancing cybersecurity, IMCTC organized an awareness session on cybersecurity in collaboration with the National Cybersecurity Authority. The session took place on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, and was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, and HE Deputy-Chairman of the National Cybersecurity Authority, Eng. Mohammad Al-Hassan, as well as delegates of Member States and IMCTC personnel.

The session discussed the importance of enhancing and solidifying cyber awareness among delegates of Member States and IMCTC personnel, and creating a safe environment for digital transactions capable of dealing with cybersecurity. In addition, the

session touched upon the effective tools and mechanisms to avoid cyber threats and methods of addressing them before, during, and after they occur. The program also highlighted the significant efforts exerted by the Kingdom in the field of cybersecurity, ranking second globally in this field.

At the end of the session, IMCTC Secretary-General acknowledged the importance of the directed programs and activities, which will have a significant impact on countering and preventing cyber-attacks.

He pointed out that cyber-attacks and their associated risks can be employed by terrorist groups as means to achieve their vicious goals, posing a real threat to the electronic, economic, and military security of nations. He emphasized that the high capabilities possessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this field are a source of pride among the international community.



## TRAINING PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL STRATEGIES



في مجال الوقاية منها ومكافحتها.  
 ٤. أنشقت عن الرأي العام وحقى عن الرأي  
 خدمة ذرائع ذات قبول اجتماعي أحياناً من  
 الأمن الوطني والإقليمي والدولي.  
 آلية متشابهة ومعقدة.  
 والمنظمات المختصة في مجال الوقاية  
 آية ومكافحتها خططا استراتيجية وطنية  
 برامجه، المعتمدة على القوة الذكية.

The Intellectual Department, in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, organized a workshop on Thursday, June 15, 2023, titled "The Guiding Model for Developing and Establishing National Strategies in the Field of Countering Terrorism."

The workshop, led by Dr. Mohammad bin Hameed Al-Thaqafi, President of the Global Experience for Training and Consulting Center (GETC), aimed to exchange experiences among delegates of Member States regarding the mechanisms through which national strategies are formulated in various areas of counterterrorism, and providing insights to build and enhance national capacities and interests, as well as protecting them against threats and risks, in addition to using national power elements to achieve the goals of the State's national Security.

The workshop also included training on drafting a written document with methods to achieve clear objectives within a specified timeframe. It also included identifying implementation mechanisms, necessary capabilities, and performance indicators that measure progress in achieving goals and programs within their planned schedule.

The Secretary-General pointed to the importance of accurately identifying the relevant entities responsible for combating and preventing terrorism at the national, regional, and international levels and setting criteria for coordination and integration among specialized institutions in the field of terrorism prevention and combating to establish national and regional standards in the organizational and operational aspects of terrorism combating.





# COMBATING TERRORISM USING BIOMETRIC DATA

Dr. Tasneem Salman Al-Juhani

Biometric systems are used to enhance security and counterterrorism efforts in many countries around the world, especially in airports, ports, borders, and other vital buildings. Biometric passports have been equipped with biometric elements such as fingerprints, facial images, and signatures as part of the passport holder's personal information. Consequently, the use of this type of technology contributes to enhancing security and counterterrorism efforts, which is an integral part of global counterterrorism initiatives. According to United Nations Security Council resolutions (2178) 2014, (2396) 2017, and (2482) 2019, travel data analysis and biometric systems are used by authorities in different countries to facilitate the verification of travelers' identities and analyze their personal data, such as name, age, place of birth, personal photos, and fingerprints. This way, travel data can be analyzed to determine whether a traveler poses a threat or not. Thus, travel data analysis technology and biometric systems play a crucial role in combating terrorism by supporting efforts to identify the whereabouts of terrorists worldwide, initiate investigations, and successfully prosecute them. Biometric data, along with data from battlefields, assist law enforcement agencies in identifying terrorists, thus helping to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks.

## ■ What is Biometrics Technology?

Biometrics technology is a branch of modern technology that uses information about individual characteristics and physiology to identify individuals' identities. Among these technologies are biometric systems that use digital measurements of physiological dimensions such as fingerprints, facial images, and iris scans, among others. In general, these technologies aim to provide reliable and secure solutions for verifying individuals' identities and enhancing security inside buildings and institutions by preventing unauthorized access to sensitive areas. Examples of such systems include electronic attendance and access control systems, traveler identity verification systems in airports, and other public and private locations.

## ■ Biometric Systems for Enhancing Security and Counterterrorism in International Transportation and Border Crossing

In our modern world, security in international transportation has become one of the top priorities for global attention. Airports, ports, and border crossings face high-security threats, including terror-

ism, drug trafficking, weapon smuggling, hazardous material transportation, and human trafficking. This poses significant challenges for governments and companies involved in this sector. Therefore, the use of travel data analysis technology and biometric systems is a vital element due to their complex and essential roles in counterterrorism efforts. They help achieve the shared goal of ensuring security and stability worldwide.

Local law enforcement officers are being trained to use mobile equipment to record biometric data for convicted terrorists. This data is then stored in Interpol's databases, including the Blue Notices, which are international alerts used to gather additional information about an individual's identity, whereabouts, or activities related to a specific crime.

These data can be cross-referenced with other Interpol databases, such as the facial recognition system and fingerprint database, to detect and track individuals internationally.

Interpol was the first international organization to establish and adopt a data exchange model between the military and the police, providing law enforcement officers with information from conflict areas to support police investigations and judicial processes.

Resolution 2482 (2019) issued by the United Nations Security Council is a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on June 13, 2019 addresses the need to improve security in international transportation as it urges all countries to enhance international cooperation and coordination in the field of aviation, land, maritime, and railway security.

It also indicates the importance of using technology and modern screening techniques to provide better security and protection for passengers, goods, and properties. The resolution urges the commitment of all countries to improving security measures in ports, airports, and other border crossings. It also urges investment in technology and innovation to enhance security in international transportation and combat terrorist threats and organized crime. It encourages UN Member States to implement technological innovations and advanced technologies to improve inspection, detect suspicious activities, and identify unusual characteristics of goods that may pose a security threat.

As a result, this resolution makes it necessary to understand the growing importance of travel data analysis technology and biome-



tric systems in maintaining security in international transportation and improving the quality of services provided to travelers.

By utilizing modern technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analysis, remote sensing techniques, and biometric technologies, countries can develop systems that adapt to the significant increase in the number of travelers and processed goods in ports, airports, and border crossings. Consequently, operational efficiency can be improved, and the time taken to inspect goods and individuals can be reduced, thus enhancing the travel experience without compromising overall security.

Many countries have utilized technological innovations and travel data analysis technology and biometric systems to maintain security in international transportation and combat terrorism, such as:

In the United Kingdom where biometric systems have been introduced to monitor entries and exits at airports and government buildings to enhance authorities' ability to monitor individuals suspected of terrorist affiliations.

Biometric systems have been used in several countries experiencing significant terrorist activities to improve security operations at airports, ports, and borders by using biometric devices in inspection campaigns that the security authorities conduct worldwide, especially at airports, to enhance the detection of banned individuals or those arousing suspicion.

In 2011, authorities in the European Union demonstrated facial recognition technology at airport levels to combat terrorism.

In the Netherlands, the police have used a biometric system to iden-



tify the identities of incoming refugees, storing biometric images and data to verify individuals' identities and identify those related to terrorism.

In Afghanistan, the government has used a biometric system to register voters and employees in companies and ministries to prevent terrorism and corruption.

In the United States, biometric technology is used for monitoring and verifying the identities of refugees seeking entry into the country. While the use of biometric systems in combating terrorism has its benefits, it is also important to respect individual rights and restrict the use of these technologies in a manner consistent with laws and legal systems. Several Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, use biometric systems to maintain security. Saudi Arabia utilizes biometric data technologies in various fields, including counterterrorism efforts. Biometric data is used to accu-

rately determine individuals' identities by relying on unique body features such as fingerprints, facial images, and measurements of the face and eyes. Saudi Arabia employs these technologies in multiple areas to combat terrorism, including identifying suspected individuals, tracking their movements, and analyzing their behaviors. Biometric data is used to verify individuals' identities at airports, border crossings, as well as in vital establishments like hospitals, schools, and commercial centers.

Similarly, in the United Arab Emirates, biometric technologies are used in many security fields, including individual and vehicle identification, as well as behavior analysis and threats prediction. These technologies are used in several areas in the UAE, including immigration and passports. The UAE utilizes biometric technologies in border control and travelers' identification, using facial and eye recognition. The police and security agencies use biometric technologies in the UAE to verify the identity of suspects and analyze criminal behavior. These technologies are also used to verify identity in vital facilities such as airports and hospitals. In the workplace, biometric technologies in the UAE are used to identify employees, track attendance and departures, and analyze professional behavior.

### ■ Biometric passports:

Some countries rely on biometric passports as part of their strategies to combat terrorism and organized crime. These passports equipped with biometric technologies enable accurate collection and analysis of personal data contained in the passports, making it difficult for fraudsters and terrorists to easily breach borders.



However, the use of biometric passports also raises concerns about individual rights and privacy, especially when biometric data is centrally collected and stored by governments. Therefore, governments must establish strict policies and procedures to ensure the protection of personal data for biometric passport holders and provide an opportunity to correct any inaccuracies in the recorded data when needed.

Finally, investing in technology and innovation is an important step towards developing and improving security in international transportation and combating terrorist threats and organized crime as these tools play a crucial role in building modern security systems that align with international security and the challenges of international transportation in the 21st century. In addition, technology contributes to enhancing international cooperation and the exchange of vital information to combat terrorism and organized crime.

## IMCTC RECEIVES NIGERIAN DEFENSE ATTACHÉ



IMCTC Secretary-General welcomed HE Brig. Gen. Adam Adamu Wasi Hassan, Military Defense Attaché at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Kingdom and his accompanying delegation on Thursday, June 8, 2023. During the visit, issues of common interest between IMCTC and the Federal Republic of Nigeria were discussed. After that, HE the Attaché and his accompanying delegation toured IMCTC headquarters and met with delegates of the Republic of Nigeria to IMCTC. The

Brigadier General also commended the mechanisms adopted by IMCTC to confront extremist groups across its four domains, and the tremendous support by the Saudi government to eradicate violent extremism and terrorism in all forms and manifestations. For his part, IMCTC Secretary-General stressed that the Federal Republic of Nigeria is among the countries that have joined IMCTC since its establishment, strongly believing that any breach to the security of our countries must be deterred.

## A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA VISITS IMCTC



On Thursday, June 8, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received a delegation from the National Defense College in the Republic of Tanzania, including a number of researchers from several different countries. The visiting delegation were briefed on IMCTC, its vision and objectives, followed by an update on the latest developments related to the fight against terrorist and extremist groups and terrorist incidents around the world. Following the

briefing, the Secretary-General pointed out that IMCTC is based on a lofty principle, which is to fight violence and confront all extremist trends, beliefs and ideas. He also stressed that terrorism and extremism in all forms do not know a specific faith, religion or geographical region. At the end of the visit, the delegation expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm receive and commended IMCTC's tireless efforts in combating terrorism.

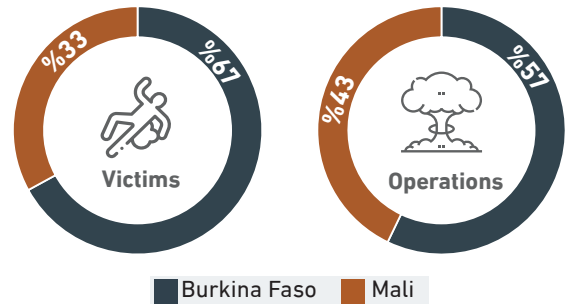


# Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during June 2023

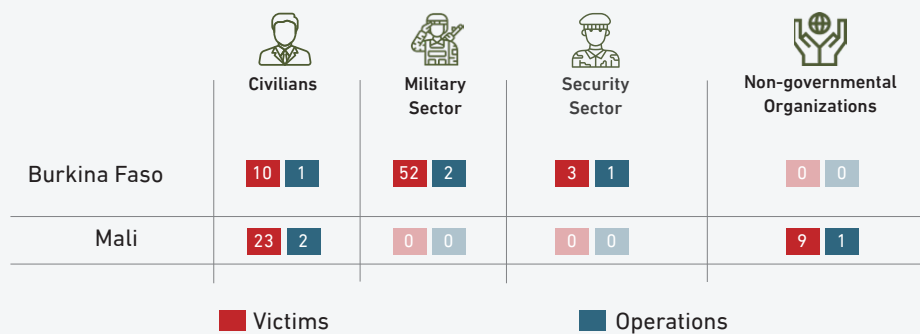


During June, 2023, the G5 Sahel countries had a decrease of 42% in the number of terrorist attacks, and a decrease in the total number of victims killed and injured by 43% compared to May 2023.

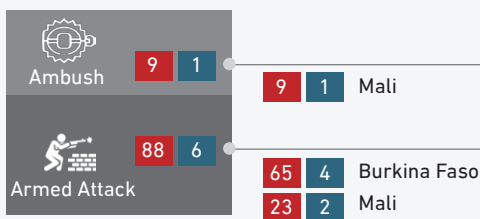
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	May 2023	June 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Burkina Faso	7	↑ 4	143	↑ 65
Mali	4	↓ 3	21	↓ 32
Niger	1	↑ 0	7	↑ 0
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>↑ 7</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>↑ 97</b>



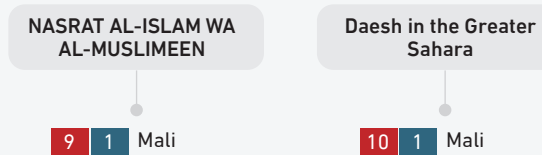
## Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks



## Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



## Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



## Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso:** The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, expressed his country's full solidarity with Burkina Faso in its tireless endeavors to combat the scourges of extremism and terrorism and to uproot them from the country.
- **Mali:** The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) will begin to minimize its presence and will withdraw completely from the Republic of Mali within six months and transfer its security responsibilities to the country's transitional government.
- **Niger:** More than 9,000 migrants from about a dozen African countries arrived in northern Niger after being returned by Algeria. According to a report issued by the United Nations and the In-

ternational Organization for Migration (IOM), this creates a critical humanitarian situation.

- **Chad:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, said more than 100,000 people have fled violence in Sudan to neighboring Chad, and the number could double within the next three months.

- **Mauritania:** The Mauritanian capital Nouakchott witnessed violent riots over the death of a young man of African origin who was detained in a police station. His family accused the police officers of killing him, which led to increased confrontations between the security forces and young men from the Afro-Mauritanian component from which he descends.

## IMCTC RECEIVES DR. ROHAN GUNARATNA



IMCTC Secretary-General welcomed Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, Professor of Security Studies at Nanyang University in Singapore, during his visit to IMCTC on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Dr. Gunaratna was briefed on IMCTC efforts in establishing cooperation agreements and partnerships with international centers and organizations to enhance anti-terrorism capabilities in Member States to fight terrorism across all domains, as well as adopting an advanced intellectual model. The visit comes as part of the intellectual and educational efforts to refute terrorist thoughts and highlight the principles and values of tolerance in order to develop the capabilities of IMCTC countries to combat terrorism in all domains.

## REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO ASSUMES HIS DUTIES



The representative of the Republic of Burkina Faso, Colonel Moussa Traoré, commenced his duties at IMCTC headquarters on Sunday, June 18, 2023. IMCTC held a reception for him attended by the Secretary-General, delegates of IMCTC Member States and employees. Everyone wished him success in performing his work.

## IMCTC CELEBRATES WORLD BLOOD DONATION DAY

IMCTC launched a blood donation campaign celebrating the World Blood Donation Day, on Wednesday and Thursday, 14-15 June 2023, with the participation and presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of IMCTC Member States and employees. The event was coordinated and organized by the Events and Conferences Department and IMCTC Medical Clinic.

