IMCTC SECRETARY GENERAL RECEIVES THE MAURITANIAN NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi met in Nouakchott with HE, Mr. Hanena Ould Sidi, Minister of National Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania,

During the meeting, Mr. Hanena pointed out that IMCTC's domains covering ideology, communications, military and counter terrorism financeng are strategic pillars in fighting terrorism and violent extremism. He further added that Mauritania stands shoulder to shoulder with IMCTC in its mission to uproot terrorism. On behalf of H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mohammed Ould Cheikh Al-Ghazwani, Mr. Hanena awarded Mauritania's National Order of Merit to IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi on Saturday, September 29, 2023. Al-Moghedi also met with Lt. Gen. Mokhtar B. Chaâbane, Chief of General Staff of the Mauritanian Armed Forces, where both sides discussed matters of mutual interest in the field of combating terrorism. This visit came as part of IMCTC's outreach and engagement with its Member States, including the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to discuss the latest developments and updates regarding counterterrorism.

IMCTC RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM THE ZAMBIAN NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTER

On Sunday, September 10, 2023, IMCTC received a delegation from the National Counter-Terrorism Center in Zambia, headed Mr. Duncan Mulima, Zambia's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. IMCTC Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Moghedi welcomed the Zambian delegation, where both sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the delegation was briefed on IMCTC's mission, objectives and role across counter-terrorism domains, as well as coordinating and strengthening international efforts to fight terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

IMCTC RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

On Monday, September 25, 2023, IMCTC received Mr. Nicolas Ndiaye, Chairman of Security & Defense Committee in the Senegalese Parliament, and Mr. Baye Niyass Cisse, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Senegal. The Senegalese delegation was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Ajaji, Vice-Chairman of Security and Military Affairs Committee in the Saudi Shura Council. Over the course of the visit, the delegation was briefed on IMCTC's achievements pertaining to its effective methodology and strategic initiatives to combat terrorism. This visit was part of the joint efforts to strengthen the ties between IMCTC and Member States to fight all forms of terror.

DELEGATE OF SAUDI ARABIA HOLDS A CEREMONY OF THE 93RD SAUDI NATIONAL DAY

On Monday, September 25, 2023, Maj. Gen. Dhafer Mohammed Alshehri, Delegate of Saudi Arabia to IMCTC held a celebration marking the 93rd Saudi National Day, and it was also attended by Maj. Gen. Abdullah bin Hamed Al-Qurashi, IMCTC Military Commander's Assistant. After the Saudi national anthem was played, Maj. Gen. Alshehri delivered a speech on this occasion, in the presence of Member States' delegates and IMCTC employees. The speech highlighted the historic announcement of unifying the Kingdom under the banner of Islam heralding that 'There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger', following a struggle that lasted for nearly thirty years under the wise leadership of the founding father, the late King Abdulaziz ibn Abdurrahman Al Saud, may Allah have mercy on his soul, aided by his sincere men who were true to what they pledged to Allah.

On that glorious day, a new young state was established that prides itself on the application of the rituals of Islam, and proclaims its tolerant teachings and human values in all parts of the world, spreading peace and goodness, seeking knowledge and development, moving steadily towards a better future for its people, the Islamic nation and the whole world.

Alshehri proudly pointed out that the Suadi land has never been stepped on by invaders, nor has it been desecrated by the flag of the colonizer. Allah the Almighty has bestowed us with great leaders and loyal men until the Kingdom fulfilled its pillars of land, leadership, people, and allegiance. The process of renaissance, development and construction has been achieved at the hands of our successive kings until responsibility fell to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah protect him, who outlined in brief words the overarching framework of the country's present and future strategy by saying, "My primary goal is to be an exemplary and leading nation in all aspects, and I will work with you in achieving this endeavor". Driven by such strategic objective, Vision 2030 was launched to achieve three pillars: an ambitious nation, a vibrant society, and a thriving economy.

Vision 2030 realization is led by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may Allah protect him and lead his steps towards prosperity, whose aspirations and determination for the Kingdom is as high as the skies, and as solid as the Tuwaiq and Sarawat mountains.

Alshehri also referred to the Kingdom's pivotal and main role in the development of the world economy and energy through its leadership of OPEC, as KSA ranks ninth among the twenty countries representing the most important and powerful economies in the world. Thanks to its geostrategic location, KSA has become a region of cultural connection and communication between the East and the West in logistic, technical, commercial, and cultural fields.

On the Islamic level, KSA is a major hub embracing and forever serving the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors, including Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, in addition to the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Muslim World League (MWL), both headquartered in Mecca. The Kingdom also plays a major role in the Arab region as a founding, active and supporting member of the League of Arab States, and the GCC region through the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf, headquartered in Riyadh, as well as its leading role in humanitarian and relief issues worldwide. Moreover, the kingdom is dedicated to providing humanitarian aid to all people, regardless of their race, color, or religion, through the establishment of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), headquartered in Riyadh.

Last but not least, Saudi Arabia is now a beacon for modernization, growth, and urbanization, and for providing services to both citizens and residents on all social, education, health, security, and service levels.

Maj. Gen. Alshehri, Delegate of Saudi Arabia to IMCTC, also extended his appreciation for enabling him and other delegates of IMCTC Member States to commemorate the anniversary of our countries and states. He prayed for the continued security, stability, prosperity, and advancement of our homelands.

Alshehri then made video presentation marking this occasion, in which he showed glimpses of the past, present, and future vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

■ An Overview about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

System of Governance

The system of governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is monarchical. In accordance with the Saudi Basic Law of Governance adopted by royal decree in 1412AH/1992 AD, The Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab and Islamic State. Its religion is Islam and its constitution is the Quran and the Sunna (Traditions) of Prophet Muhammad, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him (PBUH). Its language is Arabic and its capital is the city of Riyadh. Governance shall be limited to the sons of the Founder King Abdulaziz ibn Abdurrahman Al-Faisal Al-Saud, and the sons of his sons. Allegiance shall be pledged to the most suitable amongst them to reign on the basis of the Quran and the Sunna of the Messenger (PBUH). Governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia derives its authority from the Quran and the Sunna of the Messenger, both of which govern this Law and all the laws of the State. Governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall be based on justice, shura, and equality in accordance with Islamic Sharia.

Area

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia occupies about 70% of the Arab Peninsula, with a total area of around 2,000,000 square kilometers. Saudi Arabia is the second largest Arab state in terms of its total area.

Population

The population of Saudi Arabia is 32,175,224 (2022 census), including citizens and residents.

Geography and Climate

Because of its large area, the Kingdom has a diverse topography constituting most of the Arabian Peninsula territory. Across ages, the Kingdom has witnessed successive geological stages and major climate changes. The topography of the Kingdom is diverse; there are mountain highlands, valleys, sand dunes, plateaus, and plains. The climate of Saudi Arabia is affected by several natural factors, the most important of which is the location, as it is located between latitudes 16° and 33° N and longitudes 34° and 56° E. Because of that, the largest part of it lays within the dry tropical desert, making the location in the region of high tropical pressure in winter, influenced by the hot low pressure in southern Asia, dry trade winds in winter, and dry continental winds in summer. Therefore, Saudi Arabia has a dry desert climate throughout the year and high temperatures, with very high day-time temperatures during the summer.

Administrative Regions

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is divided into 13 administrative regions: Riyadh, Makkah, Madinah, Qasim, Eastern Region, Asir, Tabuk, Ha'il, Northern Borders, Jazan, Najran, Baha and Jawf; and each region is divided into several governorates, the number of which varies from region to another.

Economy

Saudi Arabia is the largest free economic market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, accounting for 25 percent of the total Arab Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Petroleum is an integral part of the Saudi economy; as the Kingdom has the world's second-largest proven petroleum reserves of around 17%, and the second largest producer and exporter of petroleum. It also holds 19% of the total global petroleum reserve, 12% of global production, and more than 20% of petroleum sales in the global market. The Kingdom's other natural resources include industrial raw materials and minerals such as bauxite, limestone, gypsum, phosphate, and iron ore. By the end of July 2014 AD/ 1435 AH, the Saudi economy ranked the third largest global economy in total reserve assets following China and Japan, with total reserves, including gold, of $738 billion. It also ranked third globally following Germany and China with a current account surplus of $132 billion. the Saudi economy is the17th largest economy in the world. According to the World Competitiveness Center (WCC) report, the Kingdom ranked 3rd among its G20 peers and 6th globally in the Global Competitiveness Index.

Custody of the Two Holy Mosques

The General Authority for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque (formerly known as the General Presidency of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque) is responsible for supervising the departments related to the Two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina. It is headquartered is in Makkah, with the religious, technical, service, and administrative departments are located at the Grand Mosque.

IMCTC SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi met in Nouakchott with HE, Mr. Hanena Ould Sidi, Minister of National Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

During the meeting, the Mauritanian Defense Minister pointed out that IMCTC's domains covering ideology, communications, military and counter terrorism financing are strategic pillars in combating terrorism. He further added that Mauritania stands shoulder to shoulder with IMCTC in its mission to eradicate terrorism.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a critical member in countering terrorism within the G5 Sahel countries and plays a crucial role in moderation in the Arab Maghreb. He further commended that Mauritania's active participation in several regional and international counterterrorism organizations demonstrates its belief to eradicate terrorism in its all forms and manifestations. On behalf of H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mohammed Ould Cheikh Al-Ghazwani, Mr. Hanena awarded Mauritania's National Order of Merit to IMCTC's Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi.

Mr. Hanena said that this award is an appreciation of Al-Moghedi efforts in stepping up and coordinating international actions against terrorism and extremism across member and friendly states.

Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi also affirmed that this honor is an incentive for exerting more efforts in uprooting the scourge of terrorism that has adversely afflicted many countries around the world. He further added that IMCTC, since its inception until this moment, has been blessed with the unwavering support of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister – may Allah protect them – along with the wise oversight of HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers, out of their firm belief that the scourge of terrorism has adversely burdened many countries around the world and it must be confronted and eradicated by all means.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi also met with Lt. Gen. Mokhtar B. Chaâbane, Chief of General Staff of the Mauritanian Armed Forces, where both sides discussed matters of mutual interest across counter-terrorism domains. It is noteworthy that this visit came as part of IMCTC's outreach and engagement with Member States, including the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to discuss the latest developments and updates regarding combating terrorism.

IMCTC'S SITUATION ROOM LAUNCHES DIGITAL PRODUCTS

As part of the efforts to keep IMCTC officials informed and updated on the latest terrorist incidents and activities worldwide, the Situation Room has launched a series of digital products through digital dashboards that speak continuously in real time to monitor all terrorist incidents, activities of terrorist organizations, as well as global efforts and news pertaining to combating terrorism. The digital products featured statistical analyses showing the size of terrorist operations and incidents via information panels with graphs that give direct and various readings on all aspects to help officials design ad hoc programs to fight terrorism, and to support research and studies conducted by IMCTC. The design of these products included different daily, weekly, and monthly time periods in the three official languages of IMCTC. It is noteworthy that the Situation Room's tasks include providing support for IMCTC officials and delegates of Member States to meet their needs for data and statistics. This stems from IMCTC belief in the importance of data and its role in weighing the scale of this phenomenon and the impact of terrorism in order to find the most effective ways to counter terrorism.
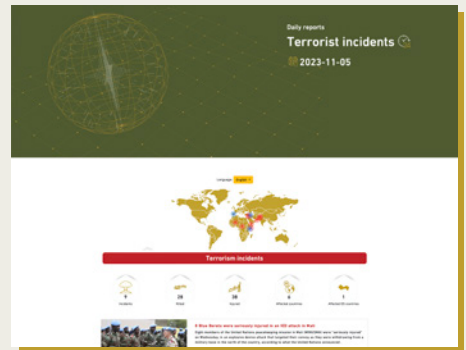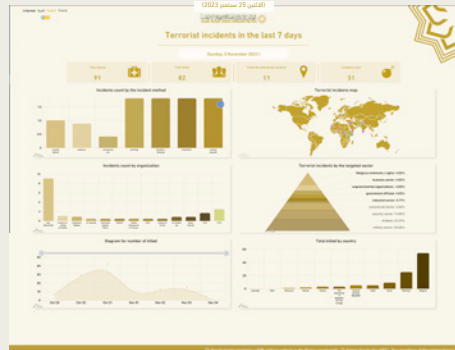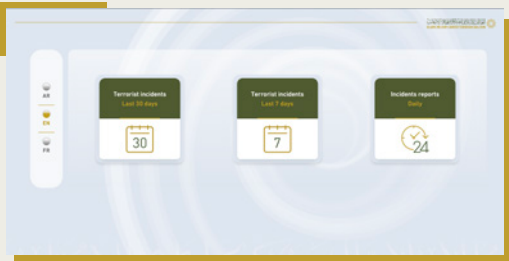
Summary of Terrorist Operations and Incidents during September, 2023

18 Affected Countries

15 Active terrorist organizations, perpetrated 89 operations

615 Victims (deaths and injuries) of claimed operations

Al-Shabaab Militant Group
The most active movement

Armed Attack
The most used tactic

Military Sector
The most targeted

Most Affected Countries

Syria 1
41 operations

Nigeria 2
25 operations

Somalia 3
14 operations

Pakistan 4
10 operations

IMCTC HOLDS A WORKSHOP ON BORDER SECURITY AND ITS ROLE IN COUNTERING TERRORIST THREATS
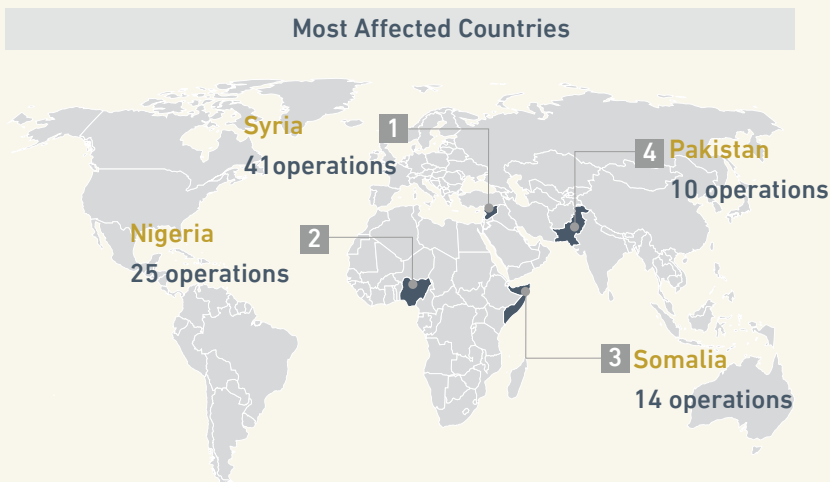

IMCTC Holds a Workshop on Border Security and its Role in Countering Terrorist Threats

On Monday, September 11, 2023, IMCTC held a workshop titled "Border Security and its Role in Countering Terrorist Threats" delivered by Lt. Col. Zaki Yahya Yousuf Al-Rawahi and Lt. Col. Rashid Mubarak Al Rushaidi, the Sultanate of Oman delegates to IMCTC, in the presence of IMCTC Secretary General and delegates of Member States.

During the workshop, both the delegates and IMCTC officials discussed the definition of 'border security', the latest threats to border security and their forms, as well as terrorist threats against borders. It also discussed the tools and tactics used for smuggling and infiltration across borders, reviewed various means of securing and protecting borders, and identified the challenges associated with border security. Moreover, the workshop addressed key principles of border security, the mobilization of forces and equipment, and the role of local population in contributing to border security. The workshop concluded with how to achieve a balance between border security and human rights.

Defining Border Security and Threat Types

Lt. Col. Al Rushaidi began by defining "border security" as measures taken by states to prevent the flow of smugglers, infiltrators and terrorists across their land, air and sea borders, with the aim of defending the political and economic interests of the state. He highlighted that border security relates to the security and stability of states. It requires joint coordination of all security, military, and civilian efforts. Al Rushaidi also touched upon a set of definitions for border security, including the Copenhagen School definition stating that it is a group of cross-border security systems within the framework of security theory, which is a complex of collective security through the exchange of support between parties with a common interest in the face of an urgent existential threat. The American definition of border security states that it refers to the efforts and measures taken to ensure the safety and protection of national borders by preventing illegal transfer of weapons and drugs and the smuggling of people and goods by promoting legal trade and travel in a way that achieves the country's security and economic prosperity and enhances its national sovereignty. Borders, thus, are the first line of defense for the state and societies against terrorist threats. They also serve as a system for monitoring and responding to threats, and they represent a vital part of the strategy to combat terrorism and maintain national security.

Lt. Col Al Rushaidi said that the concept of border security has evolved to go beyond all the political, security and technical

developments witnessed in the world to include the establishment of an integrated system that relies entirely on information, consisting of surveillance cameras that monitor all cross-border flows in their stages of movement between the points of departure and arrival. Al Rushaidi also pointed out that there are new patterns that threaten border security due to the change in geographical routes through which weapons and money are smuggled, the exchange of support between terrorist organizations, and the areas of activity of terrorist organizations receiving increasing numbers of fighters crossing the border.

Al Rushaidi discussed the forms of threat facing borders; the first of which is illegal infiltration. He pointed out that there are different types of illegal infiltration, including terrorist infiltration, infiltration with the intention of smuggling contraband, infiltration to escape security and criminal prosecution, infiltration of persons searching for work, and infiltration with the intention of espionage. Second, illegal immigration, where the reasons for illegal immigration are searching for better economic opportunities, escape from conflicts and wars, or persecution and poverty. He said that there are repercussions of illegal immigration, including economic and social challenges, laws and legislation, or human trafficking purposes.

The third form of border threats is smuggling, which includes multiple forms such as human, goods, financial, and cultural smuggling. Smuggling has major repercussions, namely the state losing revenues from taxes, financing organized crime, and destabilizing economic security; things that inevitably leads to weak border control. Finally, Al-Rushaidi stressed that terrorist threats related to border security are among the most dangerous forms of threats facing borders, as unsecured borders can be exploited by terrorists and illegal smuggling of persons and goods that increase terrorist actions. Among the most prominent terrorist activities are the infiltration of terrorists, the smuggling of weapons and materials, the smuggling of drugs and people, and the recruitment of new terrorists. Al-Rushaidi added that there are different tools and tactics for smuggling and infiltration across borders, including unofficial corridors and outlets, the use of forged documents, concealment and camouflage, and the use of smuggling networks. Therefore, secure and tightly controlled borders play a crucial role in mitigating the threat of terrorism.

■ Means of Securing and Protecting Borders

For his part, Lt. Col. Zaki Yahya Yousuf Al-Rawahi presented the second topic of the workshop, which dealt with the means of border security and protection. He pointed out that the technologies used in border protection, including monitoring and control systems, detection and inspection techniques, biometric recognition technology, data analytics and artificial intelligence, communications, and coordination techniques, and improved infrastructure. He also stressed the need to train personnel

working on borders, enhance data sharing and cooperation in the field of intelligence, implement legal and political changes, and encouraging public and community interaction with relevant authorities.

Border security challenges, as Al-Rawahi referred to, include the length and complexity of borders, limited resources, the need to balance security, trade and travel, technology and continuous innovation, cooperation and intelligence exchange, and observance of human rights and ethical considerations.

The basic principles of border security were outlined by Lt. Col. Al-Rawahi, which were divided into several levels. First, the strategic level, which includes national sovereignty, international cooperation, effective use of technology, training and qualification, individual freedoms, respect for human rights, transparency and accountability, corrective measures, community cooperation, education and awareness, dialogue, listening, and constant communication. Second, the tactical level, which includes secrecy and surprise elements, ongoing security, depth of security, maneuvering with forces and equipment, mobilization of forces and equipment in areas likely to be infiltrated, flexibility of insurance, and continuous cooperation between forces.

Al-Rawahi touched upon the forces and equipment used to secure the border, including highly trained forces, border signs and fences that demarcate the international border line between any two countries, guidance of the local population, and the use of technical means and engineering equipment. He also highlighted the importance of using technical means and engineering equipment to monitor and prevent any cross-border infiltration or smuggling. He also gave examples of these means, such as technical equipment (i.e., cameras, night-vision and day binoculars, etc.), constructing metal barriers and fences, and electronic surveillance systems of all kinds, such as (e.g., balloons and radars).

Al-Rawahi also stated that effective data analytics using artificial intelligence helps detect potential cross-border terrorist threats before they materialize on the ground, and that local communities play an active role in boosting border security. He emphasized the importance of striking a balance between border security and human rights through a variety of ways, the most essential of which are legal ones.

In his closing remarks, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, pointed out that countering terrorist threats to border security require joint action among countries and organizations, as well as having a comprehensive strategy to strengthen border security in its different forms. He further added that such strategy should have an international collaboration element in the areas of training, coordination, information sharing and use of modern technology to mitigate border related terrorist threats.

TERRORISM AND PROPAGANDA

Ashour Ibrahim Al-Juhani

There has long been a connection between terrorism and the media. Terrorists have picked sensitive times and places with media influence to commit their atrocities since long time ago, even before the development of media as we know today. They are constantly engaged in instilling fear and terror among others and capturing their attention. As a result, numerous terrorist incidents were frequently accompanied by or coincided with significant global or national events or movements on the world stage.

Some believe that terrorism is largely a propaganda act designed to raise notice of those responsible for it. Terrorism and propaganda share many similarities, in that they both are expressions of a media message; they aim to persuade and rely on flattering feelings rather than appealing to minds; they benefit from symbolic and non-symbolic communication; and they entail negative contents and attitudes towards people involved in them[1].

Terrorists constantly try to exploit the media to achieve various goals, such as providing propaganda material that leads to instilling terror, fear, and anxiety among the targeted populations by emphasizing the number of casualties, the extent of material losses, and warning of an unknown future. Terrorist acts not only target their main victim, but also intend to deliver its message to a third party. According to American communication expert Brian

Jenkins, terrorists seek many viewers and listeners rather than a large number of casualties.

The importance of media or propaganda has always been scrutinized by individuals with extreme ideas. Hitler, for example, believed that propaganda must come before mobilizing all people around the Nazi idea[2], and similarly, his Propaganda Minister, Joseph Goebbels, used to declare that he would not be exaggerating to say that the German Revolution would have been inconceivable without the radio and the airplane.

This is how terrorism was portrayed in the media in the past, but in the age of satellites and the Internet, which has been a major force in shaping society since the 1980s with over 4.9 billion users worldwide, it is now possible for an individual to hide their identity using various technologies that made news transmission possible. Nowadays, news of terrorism and terrorists are easily shared and spread beyond all reasonable doubt.

Terrorists' interest in the media has increased because of these modern means. Terrorists have started to view the media as an arena of conflict rather than just a means of propaganda, publication, or exchange of information out of their belief in what is known as the strategy of asymmetric warfare, which generated asymmetric media warfare that seek to use the media to reshape the arena of

conflicts with the aim of achieving certain gains. Ceorge Dietz, a neo-Nazi propagandist, was among the first to use the Internet to spread his extremist ideal. In 1983, he utilized numerous terms to communicate with members and sympathizers, followed in 1984 by Lois Beam, who promoted the ideology of Aryan violence and was influenced by the ideas of the extremist KKK movement[3].

The founder of the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) movement, right-wing American fanatic Tom Hetzger, then followed suit. To communicate with his supporters, he built an electronic email group to propagate his extreme thoughts, followed in the 1990s with a growing number of extremist sites on the Internet that spread hatred and encouraged terrorism[4].

Far-right groups, on the other hand, remained at the forefront, particularly after the creation of the Storm Front website in 1995 by Blackdon, who belonged to the Nazi organization born out of the KKK group in the U.S., and which is considered one of the biggest websites inciting hatred and violent extremism, and after far-right extremist Alex Curtis used the website. His own website encourages lone wolf attacks on Jews and black people, which do not require a leadership plotting and issuing orders. Any individual, according to him, can carry out any act consistent with the racial system of violence if he conceals his identity by neither appearing nor announcing his actions.

The situation in our region is not much different in terms of terrorism, although a bit late than the heads of terrorism to the extent that it reflects the difference in technological progress between the East and the West. Since the late 1980s, terrorists are fully aware of the media importance, and that is clearly reflected by their promotion of cassette and video tapes containing film materials and speeches that serve their plans and goals. Subsequently, they used the Internet given its influence as a new front in the conflict.

As a result, the relation between media, propaganda, and terrorism is strong and mostly psychological. There is coexistence and mutual benefit between them, which justifies their continuity. Terrorists gain a lot from media coverage of their efficacy and use of classic and new techniques, to the point that some rightly belief terrorism has evolved in the modern era because of its link to the media, or more precisely, media freedom.

On the other hand, the free media gains a lot from covering of terrorist incidents by presenting them in a way that reflects the violence, excitement, and human facts similar to what happens in series and films, inevitably leading to an increase in viewership, readership, or sales rates, while realizing that the counter-media discourse is depicted as a suicide act, an act of martyrdom, assassination, sabotage, and so on.

This leads us back to a globally contentious topic. The international community has been unable to develop a precise definition of terrorism, and the matter has been complicated by double standards in international organizations.

To summarize, media remains one of the most potent tools known to man for influencing people, both favorably and adversely. Following the incredible expansion of information technology and communications, media influence has grown, and its means have expanded. Where influencing minds and consciences is concerned, the media has begun to outperform education. The public relies on it to gather information, follow up and understand events in order to deal with it as a tool for understanding the variables of time and location.

True, the media is now a tool that determines one's position, goals, and ambitions.

1- Hamada, Bassiouni. Terrorism and Media Discourse. Middle East Conference on Development, Terrorism, and Security. Cairo University, December 5-6, 2018.

2- Hatem, Muhammad Abdel Qader. How Public Opinion is Influenced by Media and Propaganda. Lebanon Library 1989.

3- Al-Jundi, Muhammad. Labyrinths of Terrorism. Arab Nile Group, Cairo 2020.

4- An Insect with an Elephant's Ear: Terrorism and its Financing, Maj. Gen Ihab Attia, Sama Publishing and Distribution House, G.R.C., April 2021.

5- Al-Hadali, Thamer: How do Regular People Perceive Terrorism? Al-Alm website, 31 January 2018.

Chad Delegates Report to Duty at IMCTC

On Thursday, September 14, 2023, IMCTC welcomed the arrival of the Delegates of the Republic of Chad at IMCTC, where Brig. Gen. Mahamat Abba Dehye, Col. Ismail Idriss Himedan, Lt. Col. Cherif Dari Adoum, and Maj. Mouhamed Ali Adoudou Issa assumed their duties. IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, pointed out that the arrival of the Delegates of Republic of Chad to IMCTC headquarters to work together with their IMCTC fellow Delegates is a positive step by the leadership of the Chadian government out of its belief in the importance of increasing international cooperation in fighting terrorism. Al-Moghedi wished the Chadian Delegates every success in their mission, and commended the leading role of Member States' Delegates in achieving IMCTC's mission and strategic initiatives to counter terrorism.

IMCTC Receives Delegates of the State of Qatar

On Monday, September 18. 2023, IMCTC received Delegates of the State of Qatar, where Brig. Gen. Khalid Mansour Al-Khayareen, Brig. Gen. Saeed Salem Al-Marri, Capt. Maj. Lahdan Jumah Al-Mahanndi, and Col. Maj. Fahad Mohammed Al-Hababi assumed their duties.

IMCTC Secretary-General pointed out that the arrival of the delegates of the State of Qatar to IMCTC headquarters to work together with their IMCTC fe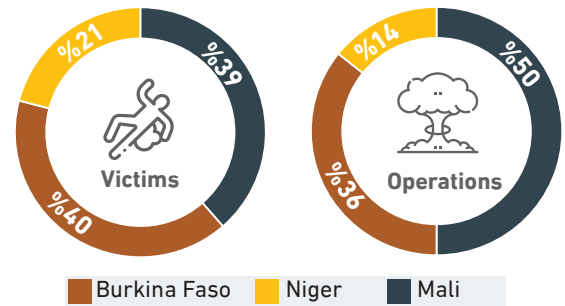llow Delegates is a positive step by the Qatari government out of its belief in the importance of increasing international cooperation in countering terrorism. Al-Moghedi wished the Qatari Delegates every success in their mission, and commended the leading role of Member States' Delegates in achieving IMCTC's mission and strategic initiatives to counter terrorism.

With the arrival of the delegates of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Chad, the number of IMCTC Member States has now reached 33 countries.

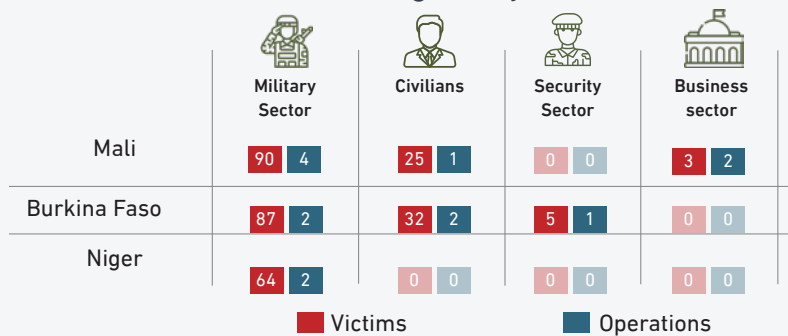# Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during Sep. 2023

During September 2023, the G5 Sahel Countries had a decrease of 7% in the number of terrorist attacks, and an increase of 61% in the total number of victims (including deaths and injuries) compared to August 2023.
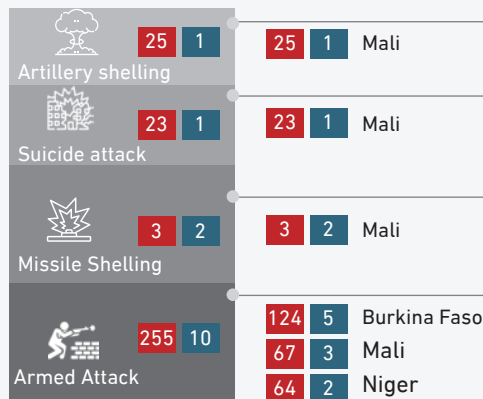
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023
Mali	8	⬇ 7	82	⬆ 118
Burkina Faso	3	⬆ 5	42	⬆ 124
Niger	4	⬇ 2	66	⬇ 64
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	15	⬇ 14	190	⬆ 306

Victims
%21 %39 %40

Operations
%14 %50 %36

■ Burkina Faso ■ Niger ■ Mali

Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Military Sector		Civilians		Security Sector		Business sector	
Mali	90	4	25	1	0	0	3	2
Burkina Faso	87	2	32	2	5	1	0	0
Niger	64	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

■ Victims   ■ Operations

Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method

Artillery shelling 25 1 — 25 1 Mali

Suicide attack 23 1 — 23 1 Mali

Missile Shelling 3 2 — 3 2 Mali

Armed Attack 255 10 — 124 5 Burkina Faso / 67 3 Mali / 64 2 Niger

Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators

Daesh in the Greater Sahara
45 1 Niger

NASRAT AL-ISLAM WA AL-MUSLIMEEN
112 5 Mali
83 1 Burkina Faso
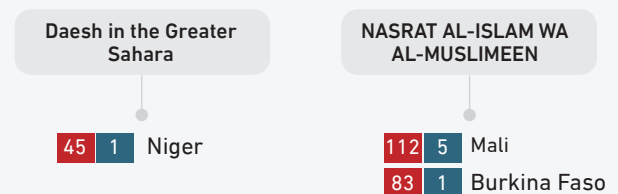
Key Political and Security Developments

• **Burkina Faso:** the military authorities announced the thwarting of a coup attempt against Captain Ibrahim Traoré. According to the authorities' announcement, many demonstrators supporting Traoré gathered at the United Nations roundabout in the center of the capital, Ouagadougou, after information circulated on social media about a coup attempt.

• **Mali:** The Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop asked for a United Nations peacekeeping force to leave Malian territory and said that it was no longer able to help Mali re-establish authority on its territory.

• **Niger:** French President Emmanuel Macron said that France will end its military presence in Niger by the end of 2023, and that the withdrawal will be organized in the coming weeks.

• **Chad:** Public anger in Chad amidst increasing demands for the withdrawal of French forces from Chad over the killing of a citizen at the hands of a French soldier in a hospital dedicated to the Operation Barkhane forces.

• **Mauritania:** Undersecretary of the Mauritanian Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. Suleiman Aboudah, said that Mauritania has succeeded in recent years in implementing an effective and successful strategy to combat terrorism, within a comprehensive approach that takes into account the security, intellectual, economic and social dimensions, despite all the fluctuations that the Sahel region has witnessed.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO DELEGATES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

IMCTC Secretary General has presented IMCTC Decoration to the delegates of the Republic of Nigeria: Maj. Gen. Abubakar Hadejia Ahmed, Rear Admiral Garba Sadeeq Abubakar, Brig. Gen. Yusuf Ali, and Gp Capt. Abubakar Usman Yahaya, in appreciation of their efforts during their assignment period at IMCTC that ended on Thursday, September 5, 2023. The ceremony was held in implementation of the order issued by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers, to award IMCTC Decoration to all delegates of Member States at the end of their assignment at IMCTC, along with the decoration certificate.

IMCTC Congratulates Member States on their National Days

IMCTC congratulated the Republic of Mali on the 63rd anniversary of its Independence Day, on September 22, 2023. IMCTC also congratulated the Republic of Guinea on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its Independence Day, on September 24, 2023. IMCTC wished both countries and their people more security and prosperity. It is customary for countries and their people to celebrate their national days since these occasions have a great impact in strengthening loyalty and patriotism.