



منها نقول

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 53, July 2023

IMCTC RECEIVES THE DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received the Cameroonian Minister of Defense, Mr. Beti Assomo Joseph, and his accompanying delegation.

Mr. Assomo and his accompanying delegation were briefed on IMCTC significant efforts and initiatives across its four domains. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters pertaining to countering terrorism and extremism, and ways to strengthen joint cooperation between IMCTC and the Republic of Cameroon across countering terrorism domains.

Mr. Assomo commended IMCTC counter-terrorism methodology and strategic initiatives, which IMCTC employ to coordinate and cooperate with international organizations and coalitions concerned with countering terrorism and violent extremist ideology. He also commended the leading role of Saudi Arabia in supporting IMCTC and eradicating terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

IMCTC Secretary-General stressed the role played by the Republic of Cameroon in countering terrorism and extremism, noting that he looks forward that Cameroon join IMCTC to work together with the rest of Member States in countering terrorism.



IMCTC CONGRATULATES ITS PERSONNEL AND DELEGATES OF MEMBER STATES



As has been the practice each year, IMCTC held a reception for the delegates of Member States and all IMCTC personnel on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, celebrating the return from the holiday of Eid al-Adha. The ceremony featured a speech by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammad bin Saeed Al-Mughaidi, in which he congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and HRH Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister,

and HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense, and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, and the great success of the Hajj season of 1444AH. He also supplicated Allah Almighty to support and guide our leaders through the path of goodness and righteousness. He called on all IMCTC personnel and delegates of Member States to rely on Allah, and continue to work with all determination and diligence to bring IMCTC to the highest degree of achievement. By the end of the ceremony, all IMCTC personnel and Member States delegates shared a luncheon on this occasion.





IMCTC EXPLORES THE REVOLUTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

On Monday, July 10, 2023, IMCTC held a presentation on “Artificial Intelligence, its evolution, principles and uses in the media field and countering terrorism”, delivered by Dr. Abdulqader bin Abdullah Al-Fantoukh, professor of computer science and general manager of Toaq Research Company of the Saudi Research and Media Group. The presentation was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of Member States and IMCTC personnel, and addressed a number of themes; the first one included the definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI), its history and applications. The second theme listed AI types and technologies, and the revolution of real-time chat services. In the third theme, the strategic importance of AI and the efforts of the Kingdom was highlighted. The fourth theme introduced a number of AI applications in the media field and countering terrorism. The presentation concluded with a final theme, which was related to the dangers of AI, its ethical values and future prospects.

During the presentation, Dr. Al-Fantoukh also defined AI, its applications, types, technologies and strategic importance, as well as mentioning the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard. He also discussed the dangers of AI, its ethical values, future prospects, and uses in the media and in countering terrorism. Dr. Al-Fantoukh proposed the use of a new coined term “Aldhukan” for AI in Arabic, and called for the adoption of its use as part of new, short, easy to pronounce, technical term in our everyday life. The new AI term “Aldhukan”, which we now know as a machine intelligence that mimic the human brain, using deep learning skills, self-improvement, super ability to retrieve, recall, swift decision-making without being influenced by emotions or ideological bias, will soon become a super machine intelligence with great capabilities in understanding and perception,” he added. Dr. Al-Fantoukh further explained that it will soon surpass human intelligence in precision, speed, innovation, and will greatly affect

most of our daily life aspects, on the one hand, and poses, at the same time, a potential threat to humanity by taking control of many aspects of our lives in broad areas.

Dr. Al-Fantoukh explored the types of “Aldhukan” and its cognitive aspects, such as self-learning, development, inference, assimilation of knowledge, science, and auto-correction. He stated that “Aldhukan” is able to deconstruct, understand, generate natural languages and dialects, and assimilate human civilization. He also touched upon the strategic importance of “Aldhukan” and its role in improving the economic status, public safety, health, creating jobs, building knowledge economies, and enhancing the quality of life.

Dr. Al-Fantoukh commended the Kingdom’s efforts in owning and

“We are living in a time of scientific innovation, unprecedented technology, and unlimited growth prospects. These new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things, if used optimally, can bring to the world enormous benefits.”

**HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz
Crown Prince and Prime Minister**

developing this technology, which culminated in the establishment of the Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence, making it the first in the Arab world and the ninth globally in the Tortoise Intelligence Index, and be also ranked number one in the Arab world and 22nd globally in the Global Index of Artificial Intelligence. He also presented examples of “Aldhukan” applications in the

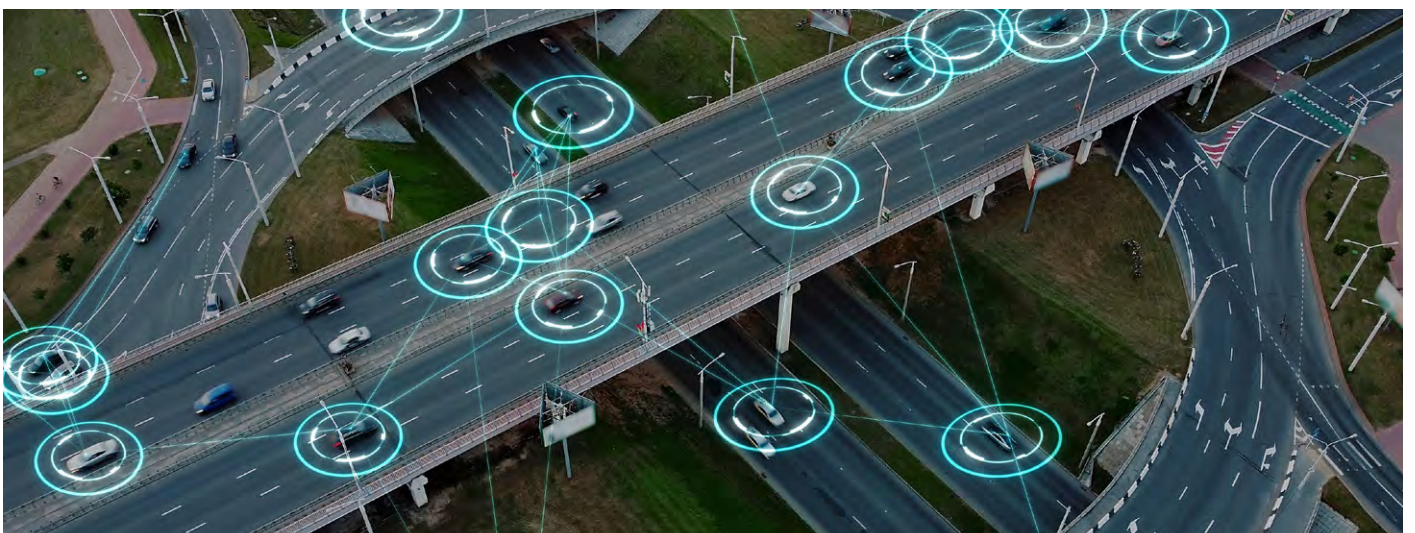


media, including real-time analysis of data and information, with no emotional or ideological bias, as well as the use of the robots in media editing or presenting news inside the news-broadcasting studio, verification of facts, fake news, photos and videos, for predictive analysis of terrorist activities, detecting false and misleading information spread by terrorists for strategic purposes, confronting terrorist and violent extremist narratives, managing the requirements of big data analysis and automated chats to answer audience inquiries and comments, professional handling of news stories, analyzing complex trends of events in a fast and predictive manner, and identifying extremism red flags would be optimum, in light of the progress "Aldhukan" has made, whereby it makes decisions, produces ideas, self-improves and innovates on its own.

Dr. Al-Fantoukh also called for the development of a global code of ethics for AI uses that maximize its benefits and mitigate its dangers. Such AI potential risks have prompted a group of prominent leaders and experts in the technology sector to sign an

open letter, in which they warned against such perils. He added that the code of ethics should focus on adherence to principles of integrity, equity, privacy, security, accountability, responsibility, reliability, safety, transparency and social benefits from the use of "Aldhukan". Dr. Al-Fantoukh pointed out to the warning made by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, declaring that AI may become an existential threat to humanity on par with the risk of nuclear war, and calling for the creation of a multilateral body, similar to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In conclusion, Dr. Al-Fantoukh listed a set of recommendations on "Aldhukan", including highlighting the importance of conducting research and studies related to the implementation of "Aldhukan" in countering terrorism and organizing specialized workshops and seminars for the applications of "Aldhukan" related to countering terrorism as well as the use of AI products across IMCTC four domains. Al-Fantoukh concluded his presentation by stressing the importance of "Aldhukan" and its role in information and media analysis.





COMOROS CELEBRATES ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

On Thursday, July 6, 2023, the delegate of the Union of the Comoros to IMCTC held a celebration marking the 48th anniversary of Comoros independence, attended by Maj. Gen. Abdullah bin Hamed Al-Qurashi, IMCTC Military Commander's Assistant and Member States' delegates. On this occasion, Lieut. Col. Nassif al-Din Ahmed delivered a speech in which he said, "we are celebrating the 48th anniversary of the independence of the Union of the Comoros, a memory that went down in history after more than one hundred and fifty years lived by the Comoros under the French occupation. On the 6th of July, 1975, the Comorian people rose up firmly and demanded their independence. They obtained their freedom without bloodshed, by virtue of the will of Allah and the strong will of the Comorian people".

He added that the Comoros suffered from poverty, ignorance and oppression, and that the citizens' rights to a decent life were taken away by the brutal occupation. The occupation was an epidemic for the Comorian people, as it sought to change people's identity and principles. The occupation attempted also to obliterate the Comorian identity after many centuries of using the Arabic language in its official offices. The occupation came to impose the French language and culture as a new approach for the people without taking into account the historical foundations of our nation. The occupation also sought in a hopeless attempt to change the identity of the Comorian people, but thanks to Allah -Almighty- our people remained unified with their Islam and culture, until Comoros gained its independence, with its people holding fast to their religion and identity.

Lieut. Col. Nassif al-Din continued that on the 6th of July, 1975, President Ahmed Abdullah Abdul Rahman and his companions declared independence before the Comorian people in Independence Square in the federal capital of the Comoros, Mornei. He recalled that day as historic in every aspect, as each Comorian is proud to belong to a homeland that has respect and appreciation for everyone. The usurper occupier was then forced to recognize the independence of the Union of the Comoros, and the United Na-

tions and the countries of the world recognized the independence of the Comoros Islands and its four islands: Mayotte, Anjouan, Mohéli, and Grande Comore Island.

The Comoros has gained its status among international forums and organizations, becoming a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States. The Comoros has also established broad and close relations with the countries of the world, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has been, since the dawn of independence to this day, the true supporter and backbone of the comprehensive development of the Union of the Comoros.

From this standpoint, the Union of the Comoros participates in IMCTC, believing in the need to uproot the scourge of terrorism and cleanse the world of this heinous crime, and that Islam is innocent of terrorism crimes, since Islam is a religion of justice, peace, co-existence, and brotherhood with no exaggeration nor negligence.

The efforts of IMCTC to fight terrorism led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are bearing fruit in uprooting terrorism and fighting extremist ideas that feed and corrupt the minds of young people. These efforts also play a major role in exploring and addressing the negative effects of such ideas and seeking to reform and develop long-term plans that include effectively addressing those effects on the social, economic, political, religious, educational and cultural levels.

On this occasion, Lieut. Col. Nassif al-Din thanked the Secretary-General of IMCTC for his kind patronage in organizing this ceremony. He also thanked the great efforts he is making toward the success of IMCTC's mission, as well as the full attention and affordable services provided to all delegate missions, especially the mission of the Union of the Comoros. He concluded by thanking the leadership, government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their efforts in serving humanity throughout history.

"May Allah Almighty sustain the blessings of security and stability for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the wise leadership of the

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister – may Allah protect them,” he added.

He concluded his speech by extending a generous invitation to visit the Republic of the Comoros to see how the moon sparkles on the full night in the Comoros islands, and to enjoy the beauty of the natural and environmental landscapes. Following that, a documentary video of the United Comoros Republic was presented, portraying glimpses of its history, location, social, economic and demographic life, distinctive nature and wildlife.

Comoros in Brief

■ "Islands of Perfumes"

1975 - 2023



■ Location:

The Union of the Comoros is an archipelago consisting of 4 islands (Mayotte - Anjouan - Mohéli -Grande Comore Island) and a group of small islands.

It is located in the middle of the Mozambique Channel between northwest Madagascar and the East African coast (12 ° 08' S and 44 ° 15' E) close to Mozambique.

Thanks to its geostrategic location in this area of the Indian Ocean, the Union of the Comoros was and still menaced by the ambitions of the great powers.

Capital: Moroni

Area: 2612 km²

National language: Shikomori

Official languages: French and Arabic

Independence Day: July 6, 1975

National Day: July 6

National anthem: Udzima wa ya Masiwa (Archipelago Union)

The motto of the Republic: Unity, Solidarity, Development

Population: Approximately 932,850 (2023) 100% Muslim. The population of the archipelago is descended from multiple migrations (Bantu and Arabs from Yemen, Oman and Asia)

The Comoros Islands were respectively discovered by:

- Pre-Islamic Arabs of Yemen
- Bantu from Mozambique (Msubindji), Dar es Salaam (Trangan-ika).
- Omani Arabs

- Shirazis from Iran
- Portugal
- Asians
- Europeans (France and England)

The Comoros has developed a local culture dominated by the culture of its Yemeni-Omani ancestors. The Union of the Comoros is administered by three authorities with equal or quasi-equal powers:

- Religious authority under the guidance of the Grand Mufti
- Authority of the upper - class
- Political power under the leadership of the President of the Republic

Islam has arrived in the Comoros during the reign of the rightly guided Caliph Uthman ibn Affan.

■ Climate:

The Comoros has a tropical climate with hot and rainy season (December to April) and cold and dry season (May to November)

Average daily temperatures:

27°C in the hottest period from January to April and around 23°C in the coldest months (July- August - September)

■ Currency: Comorian Franc (KMF)

1 EUR = 495.49 (KMF)

1 USD = 450.15 (KMF)

1 SAR = 120.04 (KMF)

Highest point: Mount KARTHALA with a height of 2361 m (24/7 active volcano) under constant observation. The crater is 8 kilometers in diameter.



Natural resources: oil and gas fields (explored but not yet exploited)

Key Resources: Fishing, Tourism, Agriculture, Essential Oils Distillation.

■ Lake Niamawi

The world's oldest fish, the prehistoric Coelacanth or Gombessa, has lived in our territorial waters for more than 3 million years. It is the symbol of our national football team.

Ylang-ylang and its processing stages

Goods for Exportation:

Vanilla, ylang-ylang (essence of perfume), cloves

CONCEPT OF COUNTERTERRORISM AND FORCE PROTECTION METHODOLOGY



The methodologies used to counter terrorism are effective tools for achieving victory, in addition to the approaches applied to protect the armed forces leading the war against terrorism. This is especially true when these methodologies are applied according to multiple perspectives that align with the experiences of fighters and their personal insights, taking into consideration the necessity to develop these methodologies in several ways, whether by exploring lessons learned or practical field training.

In a workshop held on Thursday, July 20th, 2023, Mr. Mohammed bin Nahas Al-Mahmoudi, Head of International Cooperation Department, in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General and all accredited delegates of IMCTC Member States, began by defining the concept of counterterrorism, applying it to three levels: strategic, operational, and tactical, for various combat units and combat support, in both peacetime and wartime scenarios.

He emphasized that the methodology consists of six steps, starting with evaluating the terrorist threat and the warning system, all

the way to levels of readiness and force protection.

During the presentation, he explained that the program's concept begins with assessment, followed by reviewing the procedures related to force protection and facilities, and then addressing the necessary actions accordingly. After planners assess the threat directed at individuals, facilities, whether government or private, within specific environments at all levels (region, city, area, unit, facility).

Regarding the assessment, he added that it involves analyzing current information to assist leaders in making decisions based on four key factors: operational capabilities, objectives, current activities, and the operational environment's status.

He also detailed the levels of terrorist threat, categorizing them into four levels: low, moderate, potential threat, and finally high-level threat. He also presented a detailed explanation of each threat level and the methodologies of counterterrorism. Al-Mahmoudi stated that it starts with conducting a threat analy-



sis, performing threat assessments, preparing preventive measures, ensuring the readiness of security operations for individuals, planning necessary administrative procedures, followed by command and control, and finally executing the mission according to a well-regulated management.

Following that, the workshop delved deeply into defining terms, explaining concepts for threat analysis and assessment procedures. It also covered information requirements and analysis factors, along with explaining operational capabilities. Then, the discussion moved to assessing exposure to danger, its stages, and levels based on analysis results, enabling the commander to prioritize, leading to decision-making.

In discussing facility assessment, Al-Mahmoudi stated that the evaluation process focuses on four main factors: evaluating the

level of danger exposure, assessing critical assets, then evaluating damages, which determines the military unit's capability, and lastly, assessing repair and recovery. Detailed descriptions and explanations were provided at all stages.

The workshop also discussed the security aspect, encompassing operational security and personal security, as well as physical security, education, knowledge, and training on all levels, including rapid response forces, protection branches, and emergency personnel.

The workshop was rich in information and military terminology, and it also covered post-crisis response steps, discussions on lessons learned. It also provided participants with the opportunity to contribute to the discussion based on their experiences.



MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING, AGREEMENTS, AND LEGAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM

Dr. Tasneem Salman Al-Juhani



Terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace and security due to its cross-border impact. It targets innocent civilians, government institutions, and public places to destabilize security and terrorize people. As a result, the world is now calling for and encouraging international cooperation to combat this menace, which does not only concern the states where terrorist acts occur but extends its influence to other nations. Because of this cross-border effect, international cooperation is deemed necessary to confront these terrorist groups, prevent their movement, recruitment, and funding.

International cooperation to counter terrorism aims to achieve common objectives, address challenges, enhance communication, and activate coordination among states to exchange intelligence information. This contributes to data analysis, identifying sources of threats, and terrorist cells. Moreover, international cooperation helps sharing expertise and knowledge, and developing modern techniques in the field of counterterrorism, thus bolstering the ability to address evolving terrorist threats.

International cooperation also plays a pivotal role in eliminating the sources of terrorist financing and cutting off funding channels. Terrorist groups heavily rely on funding for their activities and attacks, and curbing the flow of financial support to them reduces their capacity to carry out terrorist acts.

Numerous international and regional organizations have emphasized the significance of international cooperation in countering terrorism. These include the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), and IMCTC. These organizations and international bodies serve as channels connecting different nations, enabling them to effectively collaborate in the fight against terrorism.

The importance of international cooperation in countering terrorism is also evident through the use of various documents,

memorandums of understanding, international and regional treaties and agreements. All of these aim to enhance international cooperation, coordinate efforts, exchange information, and unify policies and measures to efficiently confront the terrorist threat.

While these documents differ in objectives, content, obligations of the signatory states, and their legal status, they all align with international laws and norms, respect human rights, and work towards achieving global peace and security. Accordingly, these documents serve as effective tools for achieving international cooperation and enhancing counterterrorism efforts worldwide.

■ Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements

Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements are two types of international documents used to organize cooperation between states in various fields, including counterterrorism. However, there are legal differences between them regarding the nature of the agreement and the extent to which the parties are bound by.

Memoranda of Understanding

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are non-legally binding agreements between states or between a state and an institution or organization. They are international instruments of lesser formality. They often outline implementing arrangements within a broader international framework agreement. They are also used to regulate technical and detailed matters. They are typically a single document and do not require authentication. States or international organizations make them accessible. The United Nations usually enters into MoUs with Member States to organize peacekeeping operations or arrange UN conferences. The United Nations also signs MoUs for collaboration with other international organizations.

In addition, MoUs include provisions that aim to enhance the capabilities of participating states in counterterrorism by providing necessary training, technology, and equipment to strengthen security capacities. MoUs specify terms for cooperation and coordination in specific areas, including counterterrorism. Despite

not being legally binding, MoUs are important documents that establish cooperation between states in various fields.

Agreements

Agreements are legally binding documents between states that outline rights and obligations to be fulfilled by the parties. They contain specific and binding clauses and require the ratification process from the signing states to become effective.

Agreements have both a general and specific meaning:

A. As a general term: Agreements represent "international agreements", which encompass instruments that do not meet the criteria of a "treaty." According to the United Nations Treaty Handbook, the difference lies in the fact that an "agreement" can be made between various entities, not just states. This includes companies, organizations, or individuals. In contrast, "treaties" are made between states and are signed by their leaders, making them more formal and binding.

B. As a specific term: Agreements have a less formal nature compared to "treaties" and they address more specific subjects. The term "agreement" is often used specifically for bilateral or limited multilateral treaties. It is frequently applied to technical or administrative documents and covers issues related to economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. Agreements also frequently address financial matters related to investment guarantees and financial affairs.

https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?path=Publication/TH/Page1_en.xml

■ Differences between a Memorandum of Understanding and an Agreement:

Although MoUs and agreements are official legal documents, there are significant differences between them in terms of scope, legal strength, commitment, negotiation, and amendment.

Scope:

- An MoU is usually used as a preparatory document for the possibility of signing an official treaty in the future. It may be used to outline goals and general principles of the agreement, as well as clarify the necessary procedures for negotiation and reaching

a formal agreement.

- An agreement is a formal and legal contract that includes specific and defined terms for the agreement between the involved parties. Agreements may encompass legal commitments upon their parties, including rights, obligations, and potential amendments.

Legal Strength:

- An MoU lacks definitive legal strength and is generally interpretable for mutual understanding and implementation.

- An agreement generally carries binding legal force and is subject to national and international laws and contracts. Agreements are legally enforceable and binding.

Commitment:

- In MoUs, parties typically commit to actions based on what is agreed upon in the MoU, but the commitments are not legally binding.

- In an agreement, parties are legally bound to fulfill and implement the terms and details specified in the treaty.

Negotiation and Amendment:

- MoUs can be easily amended during the ongoing negotiation process before the agreement is officially concluded.

- An agreement, in general, is difficult to amend after it has been signed, and parties thereto may require consensus to make any amendments.

In conclusion, international cooperation to counter terrorism is crucial to eliminating this serious threat and maintaining global security and stability. The importance of collaboration in countering terrorism is evident through international and regional MoUs, treaties and agreements, as it requires mutual cooperation and partnership among various nations to coordinate efforts, exchange information, unify policies and procedures efficiently and effectively against terrorist threats. This includes the establishment of organizations and centers dedicated to counterterrorism efforts, such as the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), which aims to coordinate joint efforts of Member States to address terrorist threats.



COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM ON COUNTERING FINANCIAL CRIMES



On Monday and Tuesday, July 17-18, 2023, IMCTC resumed its training program, entitled "Countering Financial Crimes", for delegates of Member States. The program was delivered by Mr. Ahmed Saleh bin Saeed, a member of the Financial Academy and an expert in the field of countering financial crimes, and attended by IMCTC Secretary-General. The program aimed to equip delegates of Member

States with efficient skills in managing financial crime risks and familiarizing them with the requirements for preventing financial crimes. This knowledge will enable them to execute such requirements accurately and effectively. The program concluded with presenting practical examples and exercises based on real-life cases of financial suspicion.

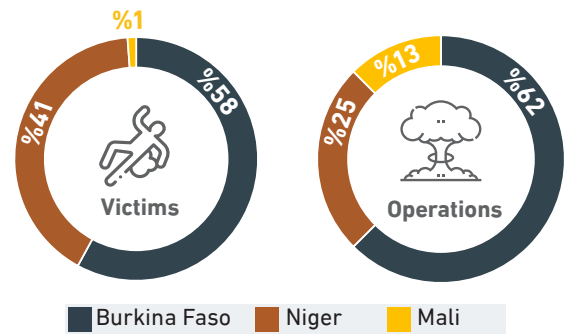


Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during July 2023



During July 2023, the G5 Sahel Countries had a decrease of 20% in the number of terrorist attacks, and a decrease of 51% in the total number of victims (including deaths and injuries) compared to June 2023.

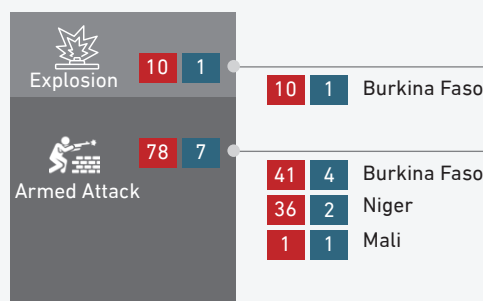
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	June 2023	July 2023	June 2023	July 2023
Burkina Faso	7	↓ 5	149	↓ 51
Niger	0	↑ 2	0	↑ 36
Mali	3	↓ 1	32	↓ 1
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	10	↓ 8	181	↓ 88



Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Civilians	Military Sector	Non-governmental Organizations
Burkina Faso	29 Victims, 3 Operations	22 Victims, 2 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations
Niger	12 Victims, 1 Operation	24 Victims, 1 Operation	0 Victims, 0 Operations
Mali	0 Victims, 0 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations	1 Victim, 1 Operation

Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso and Mali** denounced the sanctions imposed by the ECOWAS group against Niger and affirmed that any military intervention against Niamey would be considered a declaration of war against Ouagadougou and Bamako.
- **Mali:** The head of the military council in Mali, Assimi Goita, released the new constitution. Criticisms emerged from the opposition following the final results of the referendum published by the constitutional court.
- **Niger:** The coup leaders in Niger announced a ban on political party activities in the state until further notice. French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna stated that the coup in Niger is not the end, and there is potential for crisis resolution.

- **Chad:** The influx of refugees into Chad continued, with authorities establishing a new temporary camp to accommodate refugees fleeing violence in the Jenin region to the Chadian town of Adré, located 7 kilometers west of the city.
- **Mauritania:** The Mauritanian presidency announced the formation of a new government consisting of twenty-six ministers. This government formation came one day after the resignation of the previous government and the reappointment of Prime Minister Mohamed Ould Bilal Ould Messaoud.



JULY 30TH: INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Every year on July 30th, the world observes World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The theme for 2023 is “Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind”, which reflects the widespread nature of this problem globally, affecting numerous victims, including men, women, and children, who fall prey to human traffickers.

According to the United Nation, human trafficking is a grave crime and a blatant violation of human rights. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also defines it as a crime involving the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain any kind of labor.

Article 3(a) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking in its various forms, including recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

All states of the world are affected by the phenomenon of human trafficking, whether it is a state of origin, transit, or destination for victims. IMCTC is committed to safeguarding human beings and maintaining their safety, ultimately contributing to the stability, advancement, development, and prosperity of nations.



IMCTC Congratulates Member States on their National Occasions

IMCTC extended congratulations to both the Federal Republic of Somalia on the occasion of its 63rd Independence Day, which falls on July 1, 2023, and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the occasion of its 71st Independence Day, which falls on July 23, 2023. IMCTC also congratulated the Republic of Maldives on the occasion of its 58th Independence Day, which falls on July 26, 2023, wishing them and their people more security and prosperity.

States and their people are keen to celebrate their national occasions due to their significant impact on promoting patriotism for their homelands and enhancing the concepts of national unity, brotherhood, tolerance, and peace among societies.