Terrorism and Global Security: A Study of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

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ABSTRACT: *This paper attempts to examine terrorism as a threat to global security with a particular focus on the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The ISIS was able to escalate the use of terrorism to a level beyond other terrorist groups in threatening global security. Their use of extreme violent tactics like beheadings, crucifixion and burning alive of their victims under their self-declared caliphate shocked the whole world and prompted them to rise in unison to curtail their reign of terror that spanned territories in Iraq and Syria. Terrorism has become a political weapon in the arsenal of the terrorists in terrorizing political opponents, causing fear and thereby threatening global peace and security. Status quo actors such as states often tend to abuse the term to define its actions and interests in opposition to those of the terrorists. The causes espoused by groups resorting to terrorism are varied which include ethno-nationatism and separation, left-wing revolution, religious or right-wing extremism etc. The frustration-aggression theory was used as a framework to explain these variables. The paper recommended among other options, the use of credible and actionable intelligence with military option to dismantle ISIS on a permanent basis. It concluded that until religion ceases to be a strong motivation for violence against others, terrorism will continue to pose a threat to global peace and security.*

KEYWORDS: terrorism, global security, threat, violence, ISIS.

INTRODUCTION

The renewed wave of terrorist's threats and attacks have made it more urgent for governments around the world to enhance their overall capabilities to protect lives and property. This is in order to better prevent or reduce to the barest minimum the frequency of terrorist attacks as much as is practically possible. The attainment of that level of capability is intricately dependent on getting and working with the requisite knowledge and necessary tools that will aid security agencies to achieve optimal success in their counterterrorism endeavours. Plans to tackle terrorism should be driven by actionable intelligence that will form the basis of, as well as aid the creation and development of a security strategy/program that is sufficiently robust to tackle all security threats especially those connected with terrorism. With the growing terrorist

attacks, it is now expedient that better preparations by the government, its security agencies and the citizenry work with a unity of purpose in the efforts against such attacks by strengthening the various layers of security aimed at protecting lives and critical infrastructure. Therefore, the provision of adequate security against terrorist threats has become and should continue to be one of the strong pillars of the protection efforts of the combined security agencies in the different states and the international system as a whole. Terrorism is designed to call the attention of millions to an often unrelated situation through shock-producing situations of outrage and horror arising from attacks that are senseless and inhuman. Terrorism is an omnipresent condition whose effect is felt worldwide either directly or indirectly. The current desire to give so much publicity terrorist attacks has made it to be often described as requiring the 'oxygen of publicity'. And this is often freely provided in abundance by both mainstream and social media. In essence, the media plays a crucial role in helping to shape perceptions of terrorism mostly to the advantage of the terrorist groups.

The 9th September, 2001 (popularly referred to as 9/11) terrorist attacks in the United States started a renewed worldwide publicity and awareness about the vulnerability of just about anyone or location to such an attack. Since 9/11 there has been unprecedented interest in terrorism across political, media and academic discourses. That attack by Al-Qaeda had one of greatest effects on the way terrorism was perceived and responded to by individuals, groups and states in the international system. That incident became a turning point in many respects for individuals, groups, states and the international community. Accordingly, it made terrorism to be regarded as one of the predominant global security threat of modern civilization. Furthermore, it drastically changed the world many ways especially the way people live their lives. The occurrence of terrorist attacks often causes severe damage and death, as well as interruption to political, economic and social activities particularly to healthcare delivery systems around the vicinity of the attack.

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or simply as the Islamic State (IS) is the chosen terrorist sect that is the focus of this work. ISIS started as an al-Qaeda affiliate group in Iraq. It openly professes itself as a jihadist terrorist group that is against United States (US) and other Western states' interests, influence and presence in the Middle East and the entire Arab world.

Origins and History of ISIS
The foundations of ISIS were laid in the 1990s in Iraq. ISIS has its origins in the Iraq War of 2003-11. Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), its direct precursor, was one of the central actors in a larger Sunni followership who out of a grievance that Saddam Hussein (a Sunni) was humiliated out of power, tried and killed due to the machination of the US took up a mission to reverse the trend against them. Its leaders were the products of a decade of war in Iraq and Syria. ISIS is a religious sects with a messianic, or apocalyptic mindset espousing the rhetoric of mass-destruction terrorism (Hudson, 1999). According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of America, the foundation members of ISIS were extremist elements in Iraq, who killed hundreds of US and coalition soldiers during the Iraq War and later evolved to become the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria that later gained so much grounds in Syria and Iraq (Morell with

Harlow, 2015:98). The group's goal is to establish an Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria and eventually spread its influence globally. ISIS is a Salafi-Jihadist militant organization that seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria and to create a global Salafi-Jihadist movement. It is among religious fundamentalist groups espousing the rhetoric of mass-destruction terrorism. It has a weird attitude toward violence - one that is so brutal and seeks to maximize violence against the perceived enemy, essentially anyone who is not a fundamentalist Muslim. For ISIS, the destruction of the defined enemy comes with a special reward that opens the way to paradise that is associated with sacred significance. Mohammed Yusuf, the Boko Haram founder, also supports this position by informing his followers that anyone who dies in the process of their jihad goes to paradise (Anugwom, 2019:116). Ayatollah Khomeini had earlier employed this kind of radical interpretation of the Quran to provide the ideological foundation for his Islamic revolution, and selected verses to justify terrorist extremity, such as 'And slay them where ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. Such is the reward of those who suppress the faith' (Post in Bjorgo, 2005:58). ISIS's three principal functions include: as a recruitment agency for militants willing to fight for its caliphate in Iraq and Syria; as a terrorist group mounting bloody attacks against civilians; and as a military organisation seeking to exert territorial control and governance functions beyond the Middle East even if through affiliates (Crisis group, 2017).

However, its extreme tactics alienated potential supporters. Additionally, Iraqis disapproved of the group's willingness to target Iraqis and popular Sunni leaders; its perceived preference for foreign membership and leadership; and its intentional incitement of sectarian violence. Consequently, Saudi Arabia and the Sunni monarchies of the Gulf joined in US air attacks against ISIS in because they felt this group posed a greater threat to their own survival and the political status quo in the Middle East than anything they had seen since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990. For instance, ISIS bombed the Askariyah Shrine in Samarra, also known as the Golden Mosque (Crowley, 2014). As a result of these strikes, violence between Shiites and Sunnis escalated. The death of Masri in a joint US-Iraqi raid on in 2010 made Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to assume leadership of the group. Its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who declared a caliphate said it was a state where the Arab and non-Arab, the white man and black man, the easterner and westerner are all brothers ... Syria is not for the Syrians, and Iraq is not for the Iraqis. The Earth is Allah's. According to ISIS, it was to Baghdadi that the more than one and a half billion Muslims living in every continent across the globe now owed allegiance (Manne, 2017:8).

Although, it has been degraded, it remains highly active and continues to launch small and large-scale terrorist attacks within the region. In an April 2019 video, Baghdadi appeared for the first time in five years and addressed the recent destruction of the caliphate. He explained that the defeat of the caliphate was temporary and that the Islamic State would return to the region again. Baghdadi also accepted new alliances with groups in Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. After Baghdadi's death in October 2019, ISIS's through its An-Naba newspaper released a list of "next steps" that the group's new leadership would take in pursuit of the long-term goal of re-establishing the physical caliphate.

The Concept of Terrorism

Terrorism is an extremely complex phenomena covering a great diversity of groups with different origins and causes that motivate them. It is a set of methods or strategies of combat rather than an identifiable ideology or movement that involves premeditated use of violence against (at least primarily) non-combatants in order to achieve a psychological effect of fear on others than the immediate targets (Bjorgo, 2005:2). The U.S. Department of State defines terrorism to be premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non- combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience (Cited in Solomon, 2015:5). For Shanahan, (in Jackson, 2016:239) terrorism is the strategically indiscriminate harming or threat of harming members of a target group in order to influence the psychological states of an audience group in ways the perpetrators anticipate may be beneficial to the advancement of their agenda. The social sciences researcher defines a terrorist action as the calculated use of unexpected, shocking, and unlawful violence against noncombatants (including, in addition to civilians, off-duty military and security personnel in peaceful situations) and other symbolic targets perpetrated by a clandestine member(s) of a subnational group or a clandestine agent(s) for the psychological purpose of publicizing a political or religious cause and/or intimidating or coercing a government(s) or civilian population into accepting demands on behalf of the cause (cited in Hunsicker, 2006:11). Terrorism is a strategy in which violence is used against persons (typically but not exclusively noncombatants) and/or property for political or ideological ends. So defined, terrorism is a tactic that can and has been used by states, non-state groups, and individuals. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now African Union (AU), at its Algiers meeting in 1999, defined terrorism as any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of a state party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any member or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage and is calculated or intended to:
(i)	intimidate, put fear, force, coerce or induce any government, body, institution, the general public or any segment thereof, to do or abstain from doing any act, or to adopt or abandon a particular standpoint or act according to certain principles; or
(ii)	disrupt any public service, the delivery of any essential service to the public or create a public emergency (cited in Rehman, 2005:81).

Terrorism is the use of organised and systematic acts of violence that unleash terror on some people, kills or maims others, with the intention to intimidate, create fear and make governments to grant certain demands. Such acts may be intended to influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion using different means from kidnappings, bombings, assassinations etc. Indeed, what set them apart are the political motivations of their perpetrators. Terrorism has been described, correctly, as a tactic of the weak. It's adopted by groups of dissenters who lack the resources to attack the state and its forces. A further but interesting dynamic of terrorism is how transformation sometimes takes place for those involved in and with it. For instance, a good number of one time terrorist leaders have become legitimate state or political leaders, blurring the boundaries further on the concept of terrorism. Martin McGuinness, the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, is a good example, having previously been a member of the provisional Irish Republican Army. Nelson Mandela was also

branded a terrorist as a result of his leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) struggle against the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

Terrorism can be considered an ideologically-driven phenomenon, a type of violence that transcends criminal or other motivations. From analysis terrorism can be said to have been used to promote both "just" and "unjust" causes. So there is more to terrorism than the often used saying of "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Terrorists often use threats to create fear among the public, to try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism, and to get sympathy and publicity for their causes. Individuals and groups often resort to the use of terrorism as a means to accomplish an agenda which they consider can be best achieved through the use of violence. A common desire among these groups is the need for mass destruction and death. Where possible these groups may want to take charge of government.

The immediate human victims of violence are generally chosen randomly (targets of opportunity) or selectively (representative or symbolic targets) from a target population, and serve as message generators. As a result, the violence and victims of terrorism are used to manipulate the main target audience(s) in this case the government. Therefore, innocent individuals become targets of terror which are used to make demands and/or get attention, depending on whether intimidation, coercion, or propaganda is primarily sought. This means that the targets of terrorist attacks are generally places of daily life and not military objectives in the context of a declared war. Terrorism acts and strikes under the veil of surprise and darkness, with no regard for any of the rules of engagement by which combatants have always sought to set limits to conflicts, as required by international humanitarian law. This means that terrorist actions are aimed more at the audience than at the immediate victims. It is, after all, the audience (government and the people) that may have to meet the terrorist's demands. Scholars and analysts has come to see terrorism as "the warfare of the weak"—the means by which groups that lack material or political power fight what they see as oppressive forces. As such, they believe that terrorist actions and government reactions to them represent a dynamic interplay, with the moves of one group influencing those of the other. As one example, if terrorists commit an attack and a state uses extreme force to send a punishing message back, the terrorists may use that action to drum up greater anti-state sentiment among citizens, lending justification to their next actions.

Terrorist acts are usually committed by non-state actors, clandestine groups or individuals. However, the state can also be guilty of terrorism through applying the same tactics with the backing of the cloak of state authority. So, as a tactic, terrorism can be wielded as much by states and nations as by non-state groups. Therefore, any act of terrorism, its consequences and eventual news coverage repeatedly draws more attention to the incident, causing more fear among the population and giving the actors and their political messages more publicity. Their goal is to catch the attention of the local populace, the government and the world at large to their cause. Their attacks are against targets that cause the greatest damage, destruction and draw some sympathy. In the past years, terrorists' attacks have claimed lives during sports events like the 1972 Olympics, in train bombings in London and Madrid in Spain, night clubs

in Bali, Indonesia, hotels in Mumbai and Parliament in India, in a school in Belsan, Russia by Chenchen rebels in 2004, venue where 2010 world cup football matches were been watched in Uganda. There have been terrorist attacks against the seat of government (Pentagon) in the United States, an Indian court in, Police Headquarters and the UN House Abuja, religious places of worship, various locations in Baghdad, Kabul and many other cities.

Theoretical Framework
The theoretical lens through which terrorism by ISIS is analysed in this work is the frustration-aggression theory. The frustration-aggression hypothesis was proposed by John Dollard, Leonard Doob and other Yale University psychologists in 1939. The hypothesis states that aggression is always a consequence of frustration. Specifically, Dollard and other fellow theorists linked frustration to the experience of having ones goals thwarted as an important factor that provokes aggression. This theory advocates that frustration produces aggression which acts as an instigator that makes people to react, become combative or attack others. They took it for granted that the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression (Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, 1971:213).

Moreover, the theory posits that if efforts towards attaining a goal continues to be frustrated, there is a tendency to resort to destructive behavior in the form of aggression which occurs only if goal-directed activity is thwarted. It is this prevention to achieve an objective that leads to frustration which will in turn lead to aggression. In essence, when people perceive that they are being stopped from reaching a goal, frustration may set in and their frustration is likely to turn to aggression. Interestingly, the aggression may not invariably be directed at the source of aggression, which may be abstract such as lack of money, contending with an overwhelming situation that results in some kind of powerlessness and others. And in the case of governments in the Middle East where ISIS operated in, the manifestation of their frustration after the fall of the Sunni-led government of President Saddam Hussein increased their aggression that was expressed through terrorism. According to Jerrold M. Post in (Bjorgo, 2005:55) unable to face their own inadequacies, the ISIS terrorist need a target to blame and attack for their own inner weakness, inadequacies and lack of success. Such individuals find the polarizing absolutist rhetoric of terrorism extremely attractive: 'it's not us - it's them'. 'They are the cause of our problems' provides a psychologically satisfying explanation for what has gone wrong in their lives. The frustration-aggression hypothesis therefore connects the aggression of those involved with terrorism with their frustration. In essence, terrorist behavior is a response to the frustration of various political, economic, and personal needs or objectives.

It is observed that hostilities by ISIS in most of their attacks times were often directed towards the wrong persons or groups of persons who may not necessarily be responsible for causing their frustration. In analysing the phenomenon of terrorism, it is clear that those responsible for fostering the original frustration are hardly affected by the hostilities of terrorists; rather, the poor and innocent masses end up being at the receiving end of their brutal forms of violence.

Causes of Terrorism

Terrorism usually results from multiple causal factors that could be psychological, economic, political, religious, and sociological among others. Therefore, because terrorism is a multi-causal phenomenon, it would be erroneous to explain an act of terrorism or analyse the activities of a terrorist sect by a single cause, such as the psychological need of the terrorist to perpetrate an act of violence. Some of the broad-based causes of terrorism include ethnic conflicts, religious and ideological conflicts, poverty, modernization stresses, political inequities, lack of peaceful communications channels, enduring traditions of violence, the existence of a revolutionary group, governmental weakness and ineptness, erosions of confidence in a regime, US and other Western states' presence/influence in the Arab world and deep divisions within governing elites.

A strong factor that ignited the recent resurgence of Islamic jihadist was US and Western presence in the Middle East that became pronounced from the early 1990s through the coalition that was formed to reverse the annexation of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein. For example Feisal Shahzad, who pleaded guilty to charges of terror in his attempt to blow up a car bomb in Times Square during his trial regarded himself as part of the answer to the US terrorizing the Muslim nations and the Muslim people....he was reported to have said that, I want to plead guilty, and I'm going to plead guilty 100 times over, because until the hour the US pulls its forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, and stops the drone strikes in Somalia and Yemen and in Pakistan, and stops the occupation of Muslim lands, and stops killing the Muslims, and stops reporting the Muslims to its government, we will be attacking US, and I plead guilty to that (Weiser, cited in Thomas, 2011:75).

Religion when used as a cause for terrorism becomes a jihad - holy war - that is fought with motivation being drawn from the Koran. Therefore, religious terrorist like ISIS often interpret their violent action or other messages of control and domination within their religion's belief structure (Bella, 2017:10). This was supported by Masaeli and Sneller (2017: viii), who opine that religious imagination seems to hold an influential power in the creation of "delusion", orienting the "bigoted" believers toward the fulfillment of their religious duty against those who are religious in a different way or are not religious at all. Religion, in this sense, is tightly allied with political aspirations, as can be seen in most of the current instances. Furthermore, while various factors contribute in one way or another to terrorism, Kanu (in Masaeli and Sneller, 2017:281), argues that the fundamental cause of terrorism in Nigeria is corruption. And this factor also applies in the ISIS case. They believed that corruption brought about a prolonged failure of the state to provide purposeful leadership and deliver the dividends of "good governance" to the people. Kanu further avers that one of the reasons cited as to why the Iraqi army crumbled before ISIS was because the army itself was riddled with corruption. According to the Global Terrorism Index, (2020:2), conflict remains the primary driver of terrorism, with over 96 per cent of deaths from terrorism in 2019 occurring in countries already in conflict. The ten countries with the highest impact of terrorism are all engaged in at least one armed conflict. Political alienation is also causes people to adopt terrorism in their bid to change the narrative. Transnational terrorists are recruited from populations with no voice in their own government and see no legitimate way to promote change in their own country.

The desire for revenge is another cause of terrorism. For instance, Nigerian attempted 'underwear bomber', Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab upon pleading guilty during his trial confidently gave revenge as the reason for his action. He was reported to have said that what he did was in retaliation of the killing of innocent and civilian Muslim populations in Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan by the US and other Western States (Greenwald, 2013). Again, the extrajudicial killing of the Boko Haram founder, Mohammed

Yusuf triggered off the introduction of the adoption of terrorism. Moreover, after his killing, the sect faced a different sort of response from the Nigerian authorities and probably saw its choice of wanton killing and unabridged terror as warranted and even the most apt response (Anugwom, 2019:115). Moreover, Montclos (2014:5), suggest that part of what caused the Boko Haram terrorist action was opposition to Western values, the secularity of Nigeria and corruption in the system. As a matter of fact, acts of terrorism are carried out as "retribution for past injustices, press for changes in the policy directions of a local regime (or even a superpower), have a world with greater socio-economic equality, or even a world without certain types of people in it".

Another cause of terrorism is that people choose it as a means to "correct" what they see to be a social or political or historical wrong. It becomes an unavoidable option for some who feel they have lost all and therefore have nothing to live for. The eventual resolve is a determination in bringing about a political change. This factor explain ISIS' focus in carrying out several dramatic terrorist attacks. Its propaganda emphasised perceptions of injustice shared by large swathes of the population - particularly those from marginalised regions and poor urban peripheries that most often encounter state brutality, corruption and social exclusion. Among the causes of terrorism, there is a link between marginalisation, injustice, a history of state violence, relative deprivation and poverty interpreted as the result of a political mis-governance by the elite.

The belief that violence or the threat of violence is an effective weapon that can be used to achieve desired change. Some have resorted to terrorism because other options may not deliver what they want or other means have hitherto failed. In the use of violence, the prospective target is whoever stands in the way of change, can be used as 'cannon fodder' to bring about change or is responsible for the deplorable status quo. Terrorism is sometimes seen as a logical extension of the failure of politics. When people seek redress of their grievances through government, but fail to win government's attention to their plight, they may resort to violence. From this viewpoint, terrorism is the result of a logical analysis of the goals and objectives of a group, and their estimate of the likelihood of gaining victory. If victory seems unlikely using more traditional means of opposition, then one might calculate that terrorism is a better option. For example, in South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) only turned to the use of terrorism after political avenues were explored and failed. Of course, not just individuals may feel let down by the political process. States may use terrorists in the pursuit of their own strategic interests. States may sponsor terrorist groups, especially when the objectives of the state and the terrorist group are similar. For example, Libya used terrorists to explode a bomb

aboard Pan Am 103 flying from London to New York in 1988, allegedly in response to U.S. and British bombing of Libya. Other factors that causes of terrorism as outline by Schmid (2011:13) include:

(i)   Social inequality, marginalization and exclusion;

(ii)   Political oppression (e.g. in Palestine) and the violation of basic rights;

(iii)   Injustices, misery, starvation, drugs, exclusion, prejudices, despair for lack of perspectives;

(iv)   Alienation of the young in situations of economic deprivation and political tension and uncertainty, a sense of injustice and lack of hope (New Zealand);

(v)   Rejection of the Western values and influences with all its cultural dimensions;

Terrorism and Global Security

Terrorism evolved into a global security threat mainly because it moved away from being a phenomenon consisting of a single event, or at best a loosely connected series of events into that of sustained campaigns perpetrated beyond state boundaries. In the aftermath of the al-Qaeda-led 9/11 attacks against the US forced interest to develop the impact of terrorism, thereby making it to rise to the top of the political agenda in many Western countries as well as an issue of global security for the better part of the contemporary international system. This was because though the terrorists used box-cutter knifes to hijack the places, they effectively turned the ultimate mode of globalised transport - the plane - into a missile. The attack itself was carried live through global media networks, maximising exposure, striking fear into the world and Westerners in particular (Hough, Malik, Moran and Pilbeam, 2015:158).

The attention of the international community about terrorist incidents has increased due to the potential threat posed by terrorists' attacks. This is because of increased threat level, in the form of terrorist actions aimed at achieving a larger scale of destruction than the conventional attacks of the previous three decades of terrorism that was dramatically demonstrated with the bombing of the World Trade Center. In essence, it was the 9/11 attack in the US in 2001 that aw akened the world to realise how dangerous the mindset of a religious terrorist group could be. Following the 9/11 attacks, Following the attacks, NATO invoked Article V (on collective defense) of its charter for the first time in its history in a show of solidarity with the United States (Daley, 2001). Consequently, member states in alliance with the US became involved in the prolonged conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq. However the nature of the analysis done, one thing that is sure is that the events of 9/11 woke up the US and the entire West to the game plan of a program by jiadists to change the international balance of power if left to succeed with their extremist fundamentalist agenda. This position of change in the balance of power is supported by G. Ajai Sahni in (Schmid, 2011:14) who opine that part of the reason for the 9/11 attacks was an act likened to a rock or pebble thrown into a stagnant pool (the apparent stability of the world's balance of power order). And that what matters is not the immediate or direct impact the ripples will create but the ultimate crumbling and Collapse of the system. Terrorism is seen as a global security threat because it is characterised by international network of members who are driven by "a fanatical and absolutist interpretation of religion, filled with blind hatred and a disregard for states' territorial boundaries in carrying out attacks that are largely indiscriminate and deadly than ever before. For instance, the 'centre of gravity for ISIS

has moved from the Middle East to Africa and to some extent South Asia. The expansion of ISIS affiliates into sub-Saharan Africa led to a large surge in terrorism in many countries in the region which has attracted global supported especially from Western nations (Gardner, 2020). The strong linkage between terrorism and global security is because its ability to affect different countries that creates a palpable atmosphere of vulnerability, fear and uncertainty. So that even with the death of Osama Bin Laden in May, 2011, both ISIS and A1 Qaeda have expanded their reach across North Africa, the Middle East, Europe and South Asia. They have inspired thousands to travel to join their fight, and executed violent atrocities like the November 2015 Paris attacks, the March 2016 Brussels Airport bombing, and the August 2917 vehicle attacks in Barcelona (Laqueur and Wall, 2018:6). Laqueur and Wall also aver that today, terrorism has the ability, more than ever, to upend the global political order. ISIS's advance across northern Iraq not only left thousands dead through horrific acts of violence but also sought to challenge the very concept of the nation-state by erasing the borders between Iraq and Syria and establishing a pan-Islamic political entity that claimed sovereignty over the world's entire Muslim population. The crux of terrorism and global security is connected to the fact of its ability to spread quickly in a globalised world that is even brought closer by the 'CNN effect' of live and breaking news. Consequently, the high possibility to export the ideology and attacks from one state into others irredeemably made it a real cause of interest and concern for global security.

Modus Operandi of ISIS

Part of what influenced ISIS is their established position that they are operating under the premise that they are living in the house of war and therefore must use all means at their disposal to conquer territory for their cause (Gabriel, 2015:19). The usual trend of terrorist operations carried out in spectacular fashion by coordinated and synchronized waves of simultaneous actions was elevated to higher levels by ISIS. Terrorist attacks are often targeted to maximise fear and publicity. From its inception ISIS has both recruited widely from the Maghreb and sought to build a presence there in multiple ways, from the creation of recruitment and operational cells to seizing and governing territory. Most of these foreign fighters that are estimated at about twenty thousand (during its peak) were recruited from ninety nations, including France, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United States, and Canada (Gabriel, 2015:20). Accordingly, ISIS was able to coordinate a program that sought new ways of executing their jihadist agenda by bringing together a core group of bright scientists skilled in the modern technologies of the computer, telecommunications equipment, information databases, and financial networks and carried on as a state under the title of a caliphate with its territory covering swathes of land in Iraq and Syria at the height of their dominance. They proved themselves capable of developing rudimentary tactics and weapons in a relatively short time and demonstrated a willingness to use them in the most lethal ways possible. With their swift and multipronged assault across central and northern Iraq in June 2014, the ISIS militants had superseded al-Qaeda as the most powerful and effective jihadi group in the world (Cockburn, 2015:15). It achieved this notorious feat not only through ruthless acts against perceived enemies in battles that expanded its territories, but also through bone chilling inhuman methods. For instance, ISIS created markets in which women were sold for the purpose of sexual slavery; adulterous wives were stoned to death; it restored punishment by

crucifixion; there was the burnings, in one famous case of a captured and caged Jordanian pilot; homosexuals were killed by being thrown from the roof of a town's tallest building (Manne, 2017:9). For example, ISIS used cruel ways of killing victims like throat cutting and burning people alive primarily for punishment and spreading fear. In essence, ISIS flaunts its cruelty through public display of barbarism which lends a sense of urgency to the challenge it presents and allows it to consume a disproportionate amount of the world's attention (Stern and Berger, 2015:20).

Use of Cells
ISIS created and uses cells to control its members. Cell members remain in close contact with each other to provide emotional support and to prevent desertion or breach of security procedures. Consequently, there is an international network of groups that cooperate informally and formally with each other in many ways, such as ideological and theological alliances; organizational assistance; propaganda and psychological warfare; financial help; recruitment support; intelligence sharing; supply of weapons; operational activities; and availability of sanctuaries. Part of the modus operandi of ISIS is their extensive international network. This network has proved useful to the sect in carrying out attacks in different countries and also established the fact that they should not be underestimated as a global terrorist threat.

Media Strategy
The media strategy of ISIS is one that is based on meticulous planning and propelled by a compulsion to have their acts achieve the greatest impact of generating fear by recording and broadcasting/distributing them as CD/DVD messages. It developed an advanced and polished propaganda machine through which it sought new recruits from around the world and sustained sympathy from a large number of followers. Their propaganda to followers enjoying rewards only Allah gives helped to open the floodgates for the limitless supply of volunteer fighters who swelled their membership numbers that even included foreigners from Europe. Therefore, ISIS not only had an early recognition of the media's power to communicate and amplify a violent message but used it extensively to drive home their exploits and a message of fear into the minds of the world's public. In essence, recruitment of persons from different parts the world was an integral part of the modus operandi of ISIS.

Bombings and Kidnappings
ISIS used bombings against her targets and in the process killed a lot of people. This is utilised so as to better control the outcome by making sure they hit the target. Suicide bombers who carry explosive devices on their person have been known to walk into crowded locations like markets, places of worship etc. The increasing adoption of suicide bombings is because it is simple, difficult to detect and prevent, and ensures the act :ii succeed. Deliberate martyrdom through suicide bombing was a central and effective feature of their military tactics (Cockburn,, 2015:9). This option was chosen because the terrorist group have no fear that information will be extracted from the one executes the act. Moreover, to drive so much fear into the public, it adopted seemingly unmitigated litany of heinous beheadings that were recorded and broadcasted particularly through social media. In some instances, they kidnapped their victims, took hostages and negotiated to get cash or effect the release of their arrested members.

Armed Attacks and Shootings

This is another method used by ISIS to kill and maim people. This could be done through raids on certain target locations or ambushes. Such attacks require the terrorist to gain access to target location and start shooting.

Financing

They understood early enough the crucial role of money in their success. This knew that just as money lubricates commerce, a solid financial base is required to sustain an effective terrorism campaign. They attacked the central bank in Iraq and got a treasure trove of raw dollars that went a long way towards the payment of their fighters. Additionally, they operated and made money from various sources to finance itself, including methods of self-financing through oil profits derived from refineries and oil wells under her control in northern Iraq and northern Syria, looting and selling artifacts, taxation of people in areas it controls, and ransoms from kidnapping.

Destruction of Heritage Sites

It executed a deliberate plan of attacks on buildings or other inanimate objects of historical importance like heritage sites that were specially protected to be preserved under UNESCO heritage program. Sometimes such attacks were against government buildings and important sites in Syria and Iraq (Shaheen, 2017),

Establishment of Foreign Affiliates

ISIS established foreign bases beyond the reach of their enemy to better sustain and promote or protracted terrorist campaign. They were also ahead of their time in understanding the value such a sanctuary not only for planning and logistical purposes but also for the effective a dissemination of propaganda. For example, the deadliest group is the Khorasan Chapter of Islamic State affiliate in Pakistan, which accounted for 251 of the deaths in 2018 (Dudley, 2019).

Use of Lone Wolves to Attack on Their Behalf

Lone wolves (sympathetic individuals) were used as extended hands to carry out attacks to achieve their objectives and into operational scenarios where terrorism could persist for years and cause the deaths of thousands of people in different locations. Such lone wolves has carried out attacks in many countries.

Counterterrorism Strategies and the Disintegration of ISIS

Counterterrorism strategies include methods, means, tactics, techniques, and strategies that governments, the military, police, organisations and institutions adopt to degrade and disintegrate ISIS. It is the application of anti-terrorism measures to reduce the vulnerability of individuals, groups, property, and critical infrastructure to terrorism. They are actions reduce the operational capabilities of ISIS and minimize dangers, threats, or hazards that result from them.

An effective strategy to tackle terrorism must involve a combination of factors, including effective policing, intelligence gathering, the sharing of information with foreign governments and intelligence services, and the support of the judiciary and the public. An over-reliance on the military can be counter-productive. Rather than adopting a traditional military response to the terrorist acts, the eradication of terrorism needed to be linked to the need to address 'other diverse threats to individuals because armed conflicts, poverty, and other socio-economic factors create hotbeds for terrorism. Terrorism will not be defeated solely by the use of hard power.

Furthermore, security agencies should maintain a culture of preparedness and resilience to prevent attacks from ISIS and ensure quick recovery should an attack occur. To succeed in that regard, they will need to acquire and use of scanners and explosive detection systems or devices for screening persons, cars, baggage and other materials at entry points. Funding of security research and studies to get more knowledge ISIS and their tactics; better use of intelligence and surveillance to track down terrorist; watching out for signs and threats of radicalisation from within as well as cutting off the flow of foreign volunteer so as to reduce available combatants who are deployed for attacks.

Increasing the capacity, and political willingness, of the governments in the Middle East especially Iraq to address local grievances and latent conflicts in inclusive ways in order to channel popular frustration away from violent options, especially in youth constituencies that feel that their poverty and marginalisation are a function of structural iniquities and self-¬enrichment by corrupt and brutal government officials who do not show concern for them. This method of finding a political solution will require addressing the underlying motivations of terrorists and those who support them.

Additionally, government should avoiding the temptation to over-regulate the religious sphere in an effort to combat Jihadism. Instead, government should allow for the expression of nonviolent religious forms of worship and provide an atmosphere of more liberty. Arrest enough top members of the sect to limit its capabilities and force it to decline in influence. This approach can be used to keep away their field men from carrying out attacks and for also extracting valuable information from them that can serve as inputs for an enhanced counter terrorism fight.

The direct military option will involve a campaign to kill as many of them with special emphasis on the leadership. The effectiveness of this strategy is that the death of a charismatic ISIS leader can create a vacuum that will seriously affect the success of their operational capabilities. So far it has worked very well as the US keeps killing her leaders, and other members of the sect which has largely weakened them. The use of drones should be and basic part of eliminating their members. For example, the Obama administration increased the use of drones to strike ISIS and their affiliates' targets in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia etc.

Another approach, which is perhaps more controversial is for strong governments of other like the US. France, Russia etc to continue to carry out direct military action against ISIS and her supporters. The military strikes by these countries should be Complemented the strengthening of the security agents' capacities in countries were ISIS seems to be strong.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no doubt that the above measures contributed to the degrading of ISIS which should not be taken that they have been dealt a deadly blow and the final nail driven into their coffin. This is because even ISIS that was earlier degraded by the US in 2010, went into hibernation for some time and staged a stronger and more vicious comeback again after the US withdrew her troops from Iraq in 2011. Therefore, although ISIS can be said to be seriously degraded through combined counter terrorism measures by different countries, it is not over, until it is over - that is when religion will cease to be a strong motivation for violence against others. ISIS still possess the potential to rise again as previous groups like the Taliban. This is based on the position of Morell with Harlow (2015:243) that the war against Islamic extremism (ISIS included) was far from over and that this war would be one that would be fought by multiple generations. This is so because the members (including sympathizers) of terrorist groups are not just radicals but fanatics who hold on to their beliefs for as long as they live, are patient like the culture and ready to wait for as long as possible to deal that decisive blow through an unexpected attack. Indeed, terrorist operate with the mindset that their perceived enemies can be lucky many times in escaping attacks, but they terrorist are satisfied to be lucky even once in launching a successful attack. With this diehard spirit, ISIS has attempted to reframe its evident military defeats as temporary setbacks, claiming that the "caliphate" will continue in a virtual form despite desertions and loss of prestige. It will continue plotting and inspiring plots across the Middle East and Europe (Laqueur and Wall, 2018:19). Therefore, ISIS's future depends more on how governments and societies (particularly in and around the Middle East) react and learn to anticipate its future moves. If these countries and the international community are proactive, if they calibrate their security and intelligence communities to be proactive and respond appropriately to these terrorist challenges, the impact of ISIS and other terrorist activity will be blunted. Therefore, the best counterterrorism strategy is to build on the progress that have been made to check their resurgence and the success of any attacks from them even in the future.

Recommendations

i.   The use of credible and actionable intelligence should be combined with the military options to thoroughly degrade and disintegrate ISIS on a permanent basis.

ii.   The root causes of terrorism should be addressed so as to significantly reduce the number of people that will embrace violent extremism.

iii.   Efforts should be made to discourage Muslim clerics from using their positions and platforms as a lunch pad for extremist ideologies.

iv.   Muslims should change their religious rhetoric to make more tolerant and accommodating of non-Muslims.

v.   The US and her Western allies should respect and show better sensitivity towards other people's culture and religion.

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