



# HANDBOOK OF TERRORISM PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

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EDITED BY ALEX P. SCHMID



International Centre for  
Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

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## List of Abbreviations

ANC	African National Congress
ATS	American Terrorism Study
AU	African Union
BATNA	Best Alternatives To a Negotiated Agreement
BRA	Bougainville Revolutionary Army
CAB	Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons
COIN	counterinsurgency
CCTV	closed circuit television
CVE	countering violent extremism
DDR	disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
ESEER	Easy, Safe, Excusable, Enticing, and Rewarding
EU	European Union
EVIL DONE	Exposed, Vital, Iconic, Legitimate, Destructible, Occupied, Near, and Easy.
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FMLN	Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front)
ICCT	The International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (the Hague)
IRA	Irish Republican Army
ISIS	The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MEO	mutually enticing opportunity
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MHS	mutually hurting stalemate
MURDEROUS	Multipurpose, Undetectable, Removable, Destructive, Enjoyable, Reliable, Obtainable, Uncomplicated, and Safe
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	non-governmental organization
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PVE	preventing violent extremism
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UK	United Kingdom
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
US	United States

## Foreword

More than a year ago, Prof. em. Alex Schmid approached the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - the Hague (ICCT) with a proposal. He was working on another handbook on terrorism, this time specifically focused on prevention and preparedness. A formidable line-up of academic scholars and leading edge practitioners from around the world had already agreed to submit chapters. He was visiting The Hague inquiring whether ICCT would consider the handbook for publication.

Naturally, my colleagues and I jumped at the opportunity. At ICCT, we are honoured to count Prof. Schmid as one of our longest-serving Research Fellows. His research contributions have in many respects powered the growth and success of the ICCT Journal, serving as a beacon to all those seeking to understand the phenomenon of terrorism. His seminal 2013 paper entitled “Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation: A Conceptual Discussion and Literature Review” has become essential reading on countless counter-terrorism academic curricula, and is the most well referenced research contribution ICCT has ever produced.

I asked Prof. Schmid, “What made you write and compile this new Handbook?” His answer,

“It had been on my mind for more than twenty years – ever since I became Officer-in-Charge of the Terrorism Prevention Branch at UNODC in 1999. However, I never had the time and I also hoped that somebody else would bring together all that we know about prevention. But when nobody else did it, I felt that I had to do it myself. It was like a burden I carried with me during all those years. Now I feel a great sense of relief.”

The second question I had was, “Why bring your handbook to ICCT rather than a traditional publishing house?” I remember the reply vividly. Prof. Schmid said that he had considered producing his handbook through the normal publishing channels and had offers from two major publishers. However, he feared choosing that route would result in a handbook too expensive for general use and therefore one destined for dusty bookshelves in university libraries. He had a different vision for his work and that of his contributing authors.

Together, we decided that the *Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness*, as it is now titled, would sit better with ICCT because of our institutional commitment to make counter-terrorism research freely available. Extending beyond our journal, this handbook is the first official publication of ICCT as an independent press - ICCT Press.

The ICCT Journal is at the core of the institute’s knowledge-sharing activities and is the most visible aspect of ICCT’s work to inform the public debate on countering and preventing violent extremism and terrorism. Its open access format means that its publications can be read, debated and cited in any context, from first-year university student papers to European Parliamentary debates and United Nations Counter-Terrorism working groups.

ICCT takes great pride in our highly professional editorial team and large global readership, but we also knew from the outset that the comprehensive nature of the Handbook – running upwards of 500,000 words across 35 in-depth chapters (five by Prof. Schmid himself) – would push our editorial practices to their limit. As a result, we decided to publish it in five parts, ultimately bringing it all together in 2021 in a single online volume of over 1,250 pages. Along

the way, we will host a series of online events, giving our global community an opportunity to engage directly with the Handbook's prestigious authors.

It is our shared ambition that the *Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness* – produced by ICCT Press and hosted freely on the ICCT website – becomes an authoritative resource on many aspects of anticipatory counter-terrorism. The strength of its contribution to the field is unarguable: starting with first principles and an extensive analysis of lessons for terrorism prevention that can be drawn from related fields, the handbook then follows the full arc of the terrorist threat – from prevention of radicalisation to prevention of preparatory acts and preparedness for mitigating the consequences of attacks – shedding new light on how to strengthen our institutions, our infrastructure and our societies to better counter the threat of terrorism.

I am sure that the readers of these chapters will find it a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing today's policy-makers and counter-terrorism professionals, and a vital and enduring ready reference on terrorism prevention and preparedness.

Alexander von Rosenbach  
Interim Director, ICCT

The Hague, 18 November 2020



## Acknowledgements

With the publication of this *Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness*, a burden falls from the shoulders of the editor as this project has been on his mind for many years and it is good to see its completion. It rests me as editor to thank all the contributors for their work: I am truly grateful to all of you! I also wish to thank Renske van der Veer, Alexander von Rosenbach, Joana Cook and her editorial team from ICCT for facilitating the production of this online *Handbook*. Last but not least, I am grateful to my wife, Dr. Shantu Watt, who stood by me in troubling times.

Alex P. Schmid

The Hague, November 2020

*“There needs to be a renewed and sustained focus on prevention, including addressing the underlying conditions that cause young men and women to be lured by terrorism. This includes preventing conflicts, addressing fragility, strengthening state institutions and civil society, building durable peace and promoting sustainable development to tackle the poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity that feed despair”.*

- From UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the African Regional High-Level Conference on Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, 10 July 2019.