



YEAR IN REVIEW

2018



International Centre for
Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

ABOUT ICCT

The International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT) is an independent think and do tank providing research, multidisciplinary policy advice and practical, solution oriented implementation support on all matters counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism, with a special focus on prevention and the rule of law.

ICCT's work focuses on themes at the intersection of countering violent extremism and criminal justice sector responses, as well as human rights-related aspects of counterterrorism. The major project areas concern countering violent extremism, rule of law, foreign fighters, country and regional analysis, rehabilitation, civil society engagement and victims' voices.

Functioning as a nucleus within the international counter-terrorism network, ICCT connects experts, policymakers, civil society actors and practitioners from different fields by providing a platform for productive collaboration, practical analysis, and exchange of experiences and expertise, with the ultimate aim of identifying innovative and comprehensive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

The holiday season is a season for reflection. Reflection on the year gone by, but also of looking forward to the year to come. With this publication, the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague (ICCT) looks back at some of the highlights of its work in the past year, made possible in part by the generous help of various donors. You will find that we have grouped our projects within three thematic programmes, namely 'Define and Detect', 'Prevent and Protect' and 'Respond and Reflect'. We are looking forward to a new year in which we will continue and expand our activities to implement these three programmes.

So what lies ahead for us in 2019? Counter-terrorism (CT) and countering and preventing violent extremism (CVE/PVE) are structural issues that need continuous efforts. We are confronted with a threat picture that is complex: the returnee threat, home-grown terrorism, right-wing extremism and terrorism, radicalisation in prison, the need for rehabilitation and reintegration of former detainees, and the potential transnational terrorist networks of the future that are being formed across borders. It is ever necessary for ICCT to contribute a critical and evidence based stance through its research and projects. ICCT has always focused specifically on issues related to CT and CVE/PVE with a strong focus on the rule of law and human rights.

With a 'whole-of-society' approach increasingly applied to terrorism and extremism, and the progression of technology when it comes to the collection of personal data, there is a growing urgency to safeguard fundamental rights and the privacy of citizens. The risks of involving non-governmental organisations and people in CT/CVE need continuous attention. How do we guarantee that a social worker is still able to unbiasedly see his or her client as someone in need of help when we ask of them to work from an assumption of potential threat? How do we make sure that people whose data is collected, but who turn out not to pose a potential threat, have their data removed from systems? How do we make sure that potential evidence of crimes can be collected on the battlefield and in conflict areas, in an ethical and legally sound manner so that it can be used in court proceedings?

It is continuously difficult to strike the right balance between the need for action, innovation and creativity, as well as the necessity to adhere to the boundaries of our democratic society. I am glad that there is a growing awareness of the need to strike this balance correctly, with an eye for the bigger picture and the long-term effects. In 2019, ICCT hopes to carry on playing a constructively critical role in this debate by bringing its extensive experience, expertise and knowledge to the discussion.

On behalf of the whole ICCT-team I thank you for your excellent cooperation and wish you happy holidays and a happy, healthy and safe 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Renske van der Veer
Director

DEFINE & DETECT

In this programme operationally orientated research and activities such as research on the modus operandi of terrorist organisations intersect with relevant academic work. This includes topical insights into discussions about how to define counterterrorism and CVE. Within this programme ICCT also groups its long-term analyses of trends regarding jihadism and extremism.

POST-CALIPHATE

EXPERT MEETING

In October 2018 ICCT and the NCTV co-organised an expert meeting on the topic of the fall of the so-called Caliphate. The expert meeting brought together national and international experts in the field of counterterrorism, as well as high-level Dutch policy-makers from various departments and agencies. Participants discussed policy recommendations that deal with the implications and consequences of the fall and decline of IS. Based on the meeting, ICCT published its report [‘The Cost of Crying Victory’](#), which disseminates the findings to a wider audience of relevant policy makers.

LECTURE ‘AFTER THE CALIPHATE’

The Hague, 11 December 2018

In this lecture, [Dr. Colin P. Clarke](#) elaborated on the effect of the territorial demise of the Islamic State after years of political and military pressure. He outlined different potential futures of the global jihadist movement, focusing on IS and Al Qaeda; discussing possibilities of how these two organisations will conduct their operations in the coming years. The event was widely attended by policymakers, diplomats, practitioners and students. His perspective [‘The Future of the Global Jihadist Movement After the Collapse of the Caliphate’](#) was published alongside the lecture.



DATABASES ON TERRORIST ATTACKS

To understand the current trends in jihadism and extremism, ICCT has been developing multiple databases on terrorist attacks. ICCT has been expanding its database that was used for its publication [‘Fear Thy Neighbour’](#) by Lorenzo Vidino, Francesco Ramone and Eva Entenmann, which looked at jihadi attacks in Europe from 2014 to 2017. In addition to jihadi attacks, ICCT is now looking into right-wing attacks, rehabilitation and reintegration and prisons, as well as the modus operandi of the perpetrators. A further database is being developed looking into (returning) FTFs, including demographic characteristics, also with a geographical focus on Europe.

PREVENT & PROTECT

This programme combines research and activities on the preventative side of counter-terrorism with a particular emphasis on understanding and addressing the factors and dynamics underlying violent extremism and radicalisation. In addition, this programme looks specifically at measures that can be taken to protect individuals, groups and infrastructure from attacks.



This project builds on the initial [Victims' Voices](#) pilot initiative undertaken by ICCT and Max Boon, which sought to empower victims of terrorism to speak out against violent extremism.

Based on an inception study and a pilot outreach campaign in 2013, AIDA (Aliansi Indonesia Damai- 'Alliance for a peaceful Indonesia') was founded. With the help of ICCT, AIDA has empowered victims in Indonesia to build their capacity to counter violent extremism, helping to build AIDA's institutional capacity as a victims-oriented organisation.

Through the implementation of outreach programmes, AIDA was able to sustain engagement with at-risk youths to build resilience against recruitment and radicalisation into violent extremism. Among some of the achievements is the significant reduction of support for the use of violence among over 4000 students, as well as the genuine reconciliation between 27 victims of terrorism and 4 former terrorists.



Research Paper

Nine Bullets for the Traitors, One for the Enemy: The Slogans and Strategy behind the Islamic State's Campaign to Defeat the Sunni Awakening (2006 – 2017)
Craig Whiteside, September 2018



Perspective

Jihadists' Grievance Narratives against France
Laurence Bindner, February 2018



Policy Brief

Countering Islamist Radicalisation in Germany
Behnam T. Said and Hazim Fouad, September 2018

ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY

In recognition of the invaluable contributions that civil society organisations (CSOs) and community actors offer to programmes aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), a two-and-a-half year [initiative](#) was implemented between 2016 and 2018 by ICCT, the Global Center on Cooperative Security and several sub-regional partners.

The initiative aimed at strengthening the networks, capacity, and readiness of CSOs to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of those associated with or affected by terrorism. Funded by the US Department of State, the project focused on three sub-regions: The Sahel-Maghreb, the Greater Horn of Africa, and Southeast Asia.

The findings and lessons learned from the project have culminated in the development of an [Action Agenda](#), which provides policy and programmatic recommendations for stakeholders working on rehabilitation and reintegration and the role of CSOs in supporting that process.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

An Action Agenda on the Role of Civil Society in the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Those Associated With and Affected by Violent Extremism



RESPOND & REFLECT

This programme focuses on responses to terrorism - including criminal, administrative and national security measures – as well as rehabilitation and reintegration. Further, this theme aims to develop a range of monitoring and evaluation activities, such as a critical assessment on the functioning of organisations in the CT field. Focus is also placed on the ethics of CVE and CT, the necessity, proportionality and effectiveness of CT measures, as well as the possible long-term negative consequences of CVE and CT policies and practices.

ABUJA RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the auspices of the [Global Counter Terrorism Forum](#) (GCTF) Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group, ICCT has developed with the support of Switzerland and Nigeria the [Abuja Recommendations](#) which were formally adopted during the Ministerial Meeting of the GCTF in September 2018. During UNGA week ICCT presented the work at a side-event organised by UNCTED and UNODC on the Collection, Use and Sharing of Evidence for the Purposes of Criminal Prosecution in Terrorism Cases.

The Abuja Recommendations strengthen the criminal justice responses to terrorism by providing guidance on the collection, sharing use of different types of evidence in terrorism cases.

In 2019 ICCT will be involved in drafting a Memorandum on a rule of law-based use of administrative measures in a counter-terrorism context.



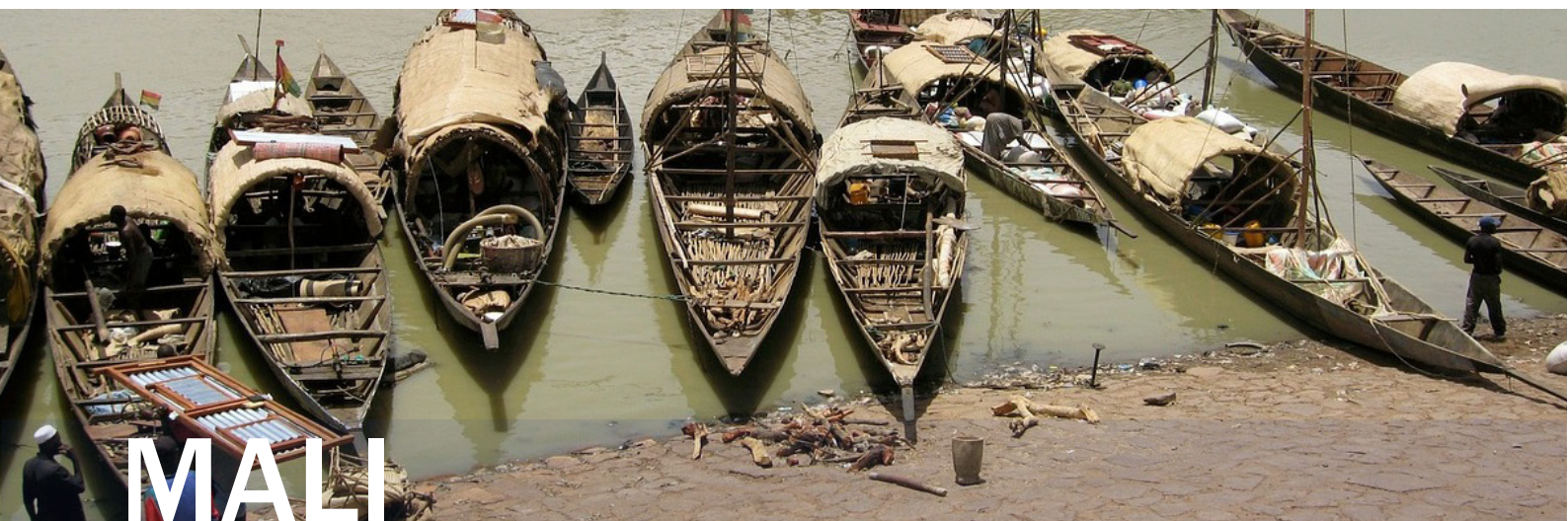
HIGH LEVEL PANEL

The Use of International Terrorist Watch Lists
31 August 2018, T.M.C. Asser Instituut

In ICCT's 2018 [Annual High Level Panel](#), experts from the International Criminal Court, Europol and the University of Amsterdam discussed the practical and human rights implications of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396. Prof. Dr. Edwin Bakker moderated the event, which attracted an audience of policymakers, embassy officials, practitioners and academics.

The High Level Panel marked the end of the [Annual Advanced Summer Programme on Countering Terrorism within a Rule of Law Framework](#) co-organised by ICCT with the T.M.C. Asser Instituut. A complementary [Summer Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Responding to the Violent Extremist Threat](#) was organised by ICCT in conjunction with Leiden University the week before.





The Mali (Dis-) Engagement and Re-Integration related to Terrorism ([MERIT-project](#)) is a multi-year project, spearheaded by ICCT and funded by the Danish Embassy in Bamako under the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This project is part of a broader effort to prevent and counter violent extremism in Mali, and aims to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of released Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) and reduce the risk of radicalisation among Malian youth. The project was kicked off in October 2018 through a visit to Bamako with UNICRI and meetings with (potential) partners. During this mission, a framework has been developed for the training of prison staff in MCA and Koulikouro prisons, which will take place in February 2019. A first coordination meeting with youth partners in Mali is also projected to take place in February 2019.



To Help Defeat Boko Haram the EU should push for good governance and accountability
EJ Hogendoorn, October 2018



The Demise of the Islamic State and the Fate of Western Foreign Fighters: Six Things to Consider
Lorne L. Dawson, June 2018



Capacity Building Challenges: Identifying Progress and Remaining Gaps in Dealing with Foreign (Terrorist) Fighters
Walle Bos, Bibi van Ginkel and Tanya Mehra, May 2018

FOREIGN FIGHTERS INITIATIVE

Over the last four years, ICCT has delivered multiple capacity-building workshops in the Balkans and MENA region addressing the challenges of the FTF phenomenon.

The workshops were tailor-made and addressing approach and outcomes of the workshop have also been linked to The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon.

Recommendations and lessons learned by the capacity-building activities were distilled into a Policy Brief by ICCT, published in May 2018.

FOREIGN FIGHTERS TAB

The International Crimes Database website launched its [Foreign Fighters Tab](#) in January 2018.

The Tab, maintained by T.M.C. Asser Instituut and sponsored by ICCT, collects cases of (individuals related to) (potential) foreign fighters, offering policy makers, practitioners and scholars a better insight into how foreign fighters are prosecuted.



MILITARY EVIDENCE

In cooperation with the [Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate](#) (CTED) ICCT is developing [UN guidelines](#) to assist member states in their efforts to collect evidence by the military from the battlefield. The aim is to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism by improving the role of the military in facilitating the collection, sharing, and use of information as evidence during conflict-, post-conflict and high-risk situations. ICCT has been working on the topic of military evidence since 2014.

In April, ICCT co-organised the [high level expert meeting](#) with UNCTED on evidence collected by the military. The meeting gathered 40 international experts including prosecutors, military actors, police officers and police makers, to discuss challenges and good practices related to military evidence. The guidelines reflected feedback from the experts in attendance, in addition to responses from questionnaires.

Moving forward, ICCT plans to continue to conduct research, provide policy advice and develop workshops on these guidelines.



WORKING GROUP

As part of the [project](#) 'Strengthening the protection of rights of sentenced persons', ICCT has been contracted by the Council of Europe to provide experts on the topic of radicalisation and in the prison environment.

In October, ICCT participated in a working group in Skopje, Macedonia on radicalisation in prisons. The meeting focused specifically on the area of risk assessment for violent extremism in prison, but is part of a larger effort in the country to improve its correctional services. Based on the meeting, a risk assessment tool for violent extremism in prison is developed and delivered to the Council of Europe for the pilot phase.

RADICAL AND EXTREMIST SPEECH

In 2018 ICCT started its comparative research project for the Dutch parliament between different European member states on the topic of radical and extremist speech –sometimes called 'extremist hate speech.'

Although not an absolute right and thus subject to restrictions, when and how to limit freedom of speech are contested questions as domestic, regional and international jurisprudence aptly illustrate. With this project, ICCT aims to deliver comparative analysis and improved clarity on how best to strike a balance when it comes to policy and legal choices between legitimate expressions of individual views and radical and extremist speech, which may pose a future threat to national security.



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