

# TERRORISM - SECURITY THREAT IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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## ABSTRACT

*THE AUTHOR DEALS WITH THE ISSUE OF TERRORISM, AS A GLOBAL THREAT, PERCEIVED DIFFERENTLY AT THE SOCIETAL LEVEL, DEPENDING ON THE LEVEL OF CULTURE, POLITICAL OR SOCIAL LIFE. IN THE FIRST PART OF THE THEMATIC PAPER, THE TERM TERRORISM IS DEFINED BY A THREE COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH, NAMELY THE ACADEMIC APPROACH, INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH / STATE DISCOURSE AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE. IN THE SECOND PART OF THE PAPER, THE AUTHOR EXPLAINS HOW THE PHENOMENON OF GLOBALIZATION, WITH ITS VARIOUS EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, MILITARY, SOCIAL, DEMOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL OR RELIGIOUS NATURE, HAS INFLUENCED TERRORISM, GIVING IT AN INTERNATIONAL VALENCY. ALSO, THE AUTHOR ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE IN A SPECIFIC TYPOLOGY THE "NEW TERRORISM", INCLUDING THE MOTIVATIONS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF THE MODERN TERRORIST, IN THE ANTITHESIS OF "CLASSICAL TERRORISM", ALTHOUGH THE PROFILE OF WHAT WE CLASSICALLY CONSIDER TO BE A TERRORIST ATTACK BECOMES IN THE LAST TIME HARDER TO DEFINE, AND AT THE SAME TIME THE TYPOLOGY OF A TERRORIST IS EVEN HARDER TO UNDERSTAND*

**KEY WORDS:** TERRORISM, GLOBALIZATION, GROUPING, CRIME, FEAR, VIOLENCE, FORCE, SECURITY.

## 1. Terrorism. Concept. Definition.

What is terrorism? The complexity of the term means that the definition of terrorism cannot be simply described in a succession of words, and once achieved it will not be unanimously accepted, both at expert level and among the public opinion. Each of the definitions of terrorism tries to determine the matrix that explains the general and / or particular meanings of the term, and has some importance because it analyzes the phenomenon from different points of view, without neglecting its emotional nature and its negative connotation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Aradavoai, Gh., Iliescu, D., Nita, L.D., Terrorism, antiterrorism, counterterrorism, Oradea, Antet Publishing, House, 2002, pg.7.

At the present time, terrorism is perceived differently, depending on the degree of culture of the recipient or the characteristics of political or social life in the environments in which it manifests - which generates the multiplicity of definitions found in the public space. Although it includes a wide range of manifestation forms, terrorism is characterized by a common feature, namely the ultimate goal pursued: provoking acute feelings of fear, scare, insecurity. The term has its origins in Latin and has a military connotation: terror, terroris meaning fear, scare, terror, provoked in a premeditated manner, by threat, intimidation and even violence. Terrorism was used by the Roman legions to impose a certain set of unwritten laws, frightening the population and thus forcing them into submission.<sup>1</sup>

According to Wikipedia, a simple and comprehensive definition of the term is: "*terrorism is an unconventional combat tactic used to achieve political goals. It is based on spectacular acts of violence operated on populations not directly involved in conflict but with potential pressure on the leadership (state, organizations, social categories or against a group of civilians) in the sense expected by terrorists - producing a generalized psychological effect by panic and intimidation, augmented by the manipulative use of the media, in order to reach a goal that is difficult to achieve by democratic or conventional means.*"<sup>2</sup>

Despite the proliferation of terrorist acts and the attention granted at the global level, not even at the present moment has the terrorist phenomenon been found an interpretation that satisfies both the "legal artillery" and the political and military fighters. The causality in this matter is complex because we have before us a complex phenomenon, with multiple areas of action, with a wide range of ways of operation and with a very well grounded ideology. It is imperative to implement generally accepted regulations, since the absence of a unanimously recognized international definition of the phenomenon represents a real threat to the global security generated by the individual insecurity of the states. The plasticity shown by the terrorist phenomenon hinders the struggle to legislate, succeeding until now to qualify any acts of violence under the heading "terrorism", and in such circumstances we can be reserved in front of the notion of "success".

Starting, on the one hand, from the definition of the term „terrorism” given by the Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian language ("*all acts of violence committed by a group or an organization to create a climate of insecurity or to change the form of government of a state*"<sup>3</sup>), and on the other hand from the multitude of definitions of the term found in the specialized studies, we will try to approach this notion by referring to the approach of Alex P. Schmid<sup>4</sup>, who places the debate on this topic in three thematic areas/approaches, respectively the academic approach, the institutional approach and the public approach.

Viewed from an **academic** perspective, the studies in the field show that the definitions of the academic environment, regarding the term / phenomenon of terrorism, focus the center of gravity on the conceptualization on the psychological effect of the actions, determined by the terrorists' intention to cause feelings of fear, scare and terror among the public opinion, which is

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<sup>1</sup> Troncotă, C., *Security Studies*, "Lucian Blaga" University Sibiu, 2008, pg, 74.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://dexonline.ro>.

<sup>4</sup> Danila, O., Neagoe, V., *Terrorism, a psychological approach*, Military Publishing House, Bucharest, 2011, pg 20.

not the main target of the terrorist act itself, being only a vector of propagating the message of the terrorists.<sup>1</sup> In this approach the definitions presented in Annex 1 can be included.

In an attempt to conclude, as a corollary of the academic approach / discourse, „*Terrorism is attached to the rule of certain requests, which, in the imagination of its authors, could not be achieved other than accompanied by threats or other acts of violence meant to show their determination and are inextricably linked to terror.*”<sup>2</sup>

In order to make an adequate statement, the specialists used as tools: establishing the generating causes, the elements that characterize and differentiate it from other acts and forms of violence, identifying the unitary psychosociological dimensions, and the methods and means of action used.

The definitions given are just a few of the desperate attempts by criminologists, historians, lawyers, diplomats, psychologists, sociologists to find a proper approach to this scourge that the global security is facing at the present time.

The **institutional** approaches, presented in extenso in Annex 2, are nothing more than the transposition of the most satisfactory doctrines into the national law, and why not European if we get to talk about the communitarian law. The need for regulation existed even before the terrorist attacks of September 2001, but no one regarded the phenomenon as a real threat. The "success" of September 11 was the signal with global effect that awakened the entire European legislative mass from hibernation.

It can be seen in the institutional approaches, the presence of the legal, sociological, etymological, military and political specific elements, since the terrorist phenomenon acts according to an operational model that encompasses vast specialized areas, being necessary to handle it from all points of view that it uses in its favor.

The **public** approach presents the image of the terrorist phenomenon as it is reflected in the media, with emotion, but also with immediate reaction socially consolidated by the readers. The media successfully uses three rhetoric types to describe terrorist acts and implicitly to get the attention and reaction of the public (pathos, ethos and logos); instead, the specialists in the field or the state institutions (academic approach, respectively, institutional approach) approach only one of them, the logical argumentation (logos).<sup>3</sup>

Psychological action is achieved through Strategic Communication using the tool of misinformation, by launching information in different ways with a strong emotional impact that can generate insecurity and panic among people in the viewfinder or in various social circles. In the first moments of the terrorist act, the media is often the first source of information for citizens, long before the public authorities can take over the case. Therefore, the mission of terrorist organizations is essential: providing clear, accurate, prompt and responsible information.

The incidence of the type of violence in the terrorist act, highlighted by the media, can be evaluated in the following sequence: taking hostages; assassinations; bomb attacks; kidnappings; hijacking for the purpose of extortion or extradition; guerrilla warfare; sabotage; torture; hijacking for the purpose of escaping. Appendix 3 presents some points of view on the concept of terrorism expressed by specialists in public communication.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>2</sup> Pivniceru, M.M., *Criminal liability in administrative law*, Polirom Publishing House, Bucharest, 1999, pg11.

<sup>3</sup> Leaua, L., *Intelligence and decision making*, Intelligence magazine / 04.12.2004.

Careful analysis of the definitions of the terrorist act, in all three approaches referred to previously, shows that the explanation of the term takes into account the fundamental elements of definition, respectively: the means used (violent actions most often aimed at the unemployed population), the method used (kidnappings, sabotage, attacks, criminal acts, panic inducement), the target (mainly non-combatant civilians or politically or socially important personalities), the aim pursued (producing a major change in the political spectrum), the participants (individuals or groups that are self-declared without state membership, although some experts consider that certain recent terrorist acts were committed by exponents of "terrorist states" and even on their behalf).

At the same time, in explaining the term, it is noted the existence of several elements as a common denominator, such as: a) use of force and violence, threat, to create fear; b) the absence of a direct connection / involvement, in most situations, between the victims and the reason of the act itself, in the opinion of the terrorists an injustice, real or imaginary; c) careful planning of actions; d) the existence of political motivations.

In conclusion, we can say that terrorism is an unconventional fighting tactic, a global contemporary societal threat, which seeks to produce "psycho-affective" fractures between the community and its leadership / leaders, feelings of fear and frustration, emotions, comments and media reactions, all of which, in most cases, pursue the accomplishment of certain political goals.

However, we will see, during this work, that the terrorist attacks executed in the first years of the 21st century, on European territory, lack one of these key elements, namely the political motivation of the attacks, these being replaced by religious motivations or, even more recently, by personal motivations / frustrations of the attackers, emphasized against the background of psychic problems.

Finally, we will add a definition that is assumed more or less by terrorists who have an awareness of moral superiority, considering themselves as idealists that society does not deserve.<sup>1</sup> They believe that the notion of "terrorist" needs to be replaced by that of "freedom fighter", "social, ethnic or economic vigilante".

The author's exercise of trying to draw in a more explicit form the term terrorism, can be seen as a corollary of Professor Reynald Ottenhof's statement, which specifies that "*defining terrorism is obviously a logical necessity, but is it not an impossible task?*"

## **2. The influence of globalization on terrorism.**

The authoritative approach to give an answer on the way in which the complex phenomenon of terrorism has been, and still is, influenced by globalization, will have to start from the explanation / nuance of the latter term, in itself a very complex, integrating term and which has aroused heated debate among specialists. So what is globalization?

Surely it is the phenomenon that has changed the world, which has allowed any citizen, wherever he is in the world, to have almost real-time access to the latest breakthroughs of current science and technology, to understand / destroy the imaginary barriers of informational flows of information, goods, services or capital, and thus to enhance their individual, material or spiritual strength, on any coordinates of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Andreescu, A., Niță, D., Terrorism - psychological analysis, Timpolis, Timișoara, 1999, pg. 89.

Referring to globalization, Professor Andrei Marga said that "it is not only the process through which the information crosses the borders of the community of origin and is internationalized, but also an even more complicated process, that of the continuous expansion of the market on which the products are used, including the ideal and spiritual ones".<sup>1</sup>

Globalization has generated at the societal level a multitude of diverse effects, most of which more prominent, included in a matrix with elements of political, military, social, economic, demographic, cultural or religious nature that<sup>2</sup>, directly or indirectly, determined by objective or subjective factors, imply besides the variety of indisputable benefits (individual or collective), also some secondary or collateral risks also. The mutual interactions between these effects, desirable or undesirable, in the case of a deficient management by the responsible entities, can be themselves generating in cascade some new unfavorable evolutions (risks, dangers and threats to the security equation), the terrorist phenomenon representing perhaps the most eloquent example in this case.

In the Euro-Atlantic culture, deeply marked by the phenomenon of globalization, terrorism falls into the category of asymmetrical conflicts, which depart from the pattern of classical belligerents, representing rather a way of opposing and replying from the weakest to the most powerful, considered invading or invader, a form of unconventional war that targets terror for the achievement of political desires.

Regarding the major implications for humanity, generated by the phenomenon of globalization, the most important imprint is the economic dimensions - an important pillar of security policy (which should be characterized by performance, competitiveness, stability and dynamism), and the cultural one - often subjected to an erosion process that can endanger identity cohesion, or some of the frequent motivations of terrorism are precisely these ...

“The rhythm of the evolution of the contemporary human society, the transformations of the way of life, the market economy that goes through everything, absolutely everything through the purgatory of money, implies violence ...”<sup>3</sup>, which is perceived by some societal actors as a daily way of living, through which to impose either their own interests or those of the groups that represent them voluntarily or constrained. And from here to crime and terrorism is only one step. The economic interest, marked by the competition for the control of natural resources, mainly oil and natural gas, represents the "poster head" of the last decades and was at the origin of the conflicts between the two civilizations, Christian and Muslim (which potentiated the terrorist phenomenon), in a "continually deep conflict" relationship, and, although "sometimes peaceful coexistence prevailed, more often than not, the relationship was one of intense rivalry and war of varying degrees."<sup>4</sup>

Analyzing the cultural dimension, referred to above, we can see the almost irreparable collision of two fundamentally different societal mindsets, configured over fourteen centuries, and which value differently notions such as money, work, freedom or time. Thus, Islamism is perceived as a threat to what is considered the "Euro-Atlantic modus vivendi", and the terrorist

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<sup>1</sup> Troncotă, C., *op.cit.*, pg. 21-22.

<sup>2</sup> Some studies in the field claim that certain religious representations and visions carry the imprint of globalization, being in a global competition.

<sup>3</sup> Bodunescu, I., *op.cit.*, pg 37.

<sup>4</sup> Huntington, S., *Clash of Civilizations and the Restoration of World Order*, trad. by Radu Carp, Ed. Antet, 1997, p. 37.

attacks initiated by the fundamentalist Islamist groups, targeting, without bias, sometimes with surgical precision, diplomatic headquarters, critical infrastructures or public spaces, aim to create bloody breaches in the Euro-Atlantic civilization order, so annoying and unacceptable to Muslims, with the clear purpose of instilling fear and disrupting the "bonoma" of Western daily life.

Ultimately, in the age of globalization, terrorism is perceived in the collective mind, but also by those involved, as a perverse form of the political, economic and even social struggle, which aims indirectly / in the alternative to achieve the goals of the same kind, in a world marked by uncertainty and lack of predictability in the most important areas of social life; in the opinion of the actors involved / the terrorists, the economic and social injustice can be, and should be removed only by violence, as the extreme form of manifestation of the revengeful feelings or of the discontent.

It is, at the same time, a "war" of low intensity, a form of struggle initiated and unfolded at the lower limit of violence, even though sometimes the atrocities committed mark the collective mind, and unlike the classic conflict / war, in which the primary role rests with the military actor - conventionally, in the case of terrorism, the acting element, in the foreground, is the exponent of political, economic or social interests, who makes politics by killing and who considers terrorism as "the last solution tactic ".

Many believe that globalization has contributed, through the mechanisms it has generated at the planetary level, to the formation of what some consider to be "... the hidden world in which human intelligence is put at the service of false ideals, in which terrorism, plunder, trafficking and exploitation of the fellows merge into a secret spider's web of arrangements, complicity and deception, in fact a machine producing money and power. A spider's web which dehumanizes both the victims and the aggressors".<sup>1</sup>

And because we are discussing terrorism and its forms of manifestation, in this world of all possible actions, the defining operational feature of the phenomenon is marked by the conscious, interested and premeditated use of the threat itself, and of violence, of terror, as the extreme form of manifestation. As horrible as the action or deed might be and no matter how great the impact at societal level, if these elements are not found, they cannot be classified as terrorist acts.

Referring to the negative connotations of globalization, which has favoured and potentiated terrorism at the global level, in forms sometimes uncontrollable, it can be stated that "... it has a dark frightening side. It has transformed some areas of the world into the modern jungle, where criminals are looking for young apprentices to teach them how to hunt aliens and (n-how to become) terrorists. Even if governments do not recognize it, this is the reality. ”<sup>2</sup>

Globalization, this fascinating phenomenon, without which, however negative we may be in thinking and feeling, we could not imagine daily life, thus creating, by facilitating the interaction between individuals, the conditions of their association to express their dark side of the reason, the violence, by the force with which nature or technique endowed them, and to be able to resort, finally, to committing some atrocities, the terrorist acts. Thus, another important organizational feature of the terrorist act is the fact that it is designed and put into practice most of the time in the group, with strong ties and constraints imposed on its members, for many

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<sup>1</sup> Napoleoni, L., *ISIS-People Traders*, Corint Books, Bucharest, 2016, pg.5 (Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu - preface).

<sup>2</sup> Napoleoni, L.- *op.cit.*

terrorists belonging to the group “can become a motivational element more important than the group's doctrine or political goals.”<sup>1</sup>

Good or bad, animated by the desire to put the breakthroughs of modern science for the benefit of the evolution of society or its destruction, people must live, interact, exchange ideas and conceptions about the world and life, resort to an intellectual exercise that would lead to finding that inner balance that would make them enjoy the benefits of globalization, this multi-faceted process, with different facets, often contradictory.

But is this the idea that guides the conduct of the individual in the millennium in which we live? Certainly not, as long as “in today's society all actors benefit from the advantages of globalization, technological advances and (...) the current context seems to be particularly favorable to terrorist groups, which can benefit from democratic freedom and free movement, they can have access on the free market to new civil technologies, and through organized crime networks, to military equipment”<sup>2</sup>. And so the evil is put before the good ...

### 3. “Classic terrorism” versus “New terrorism”.

In the current international context, marked by significant and sometimes unpredictable developments in the security equation, an exciting topic, circumscribed to the problematic, intensely debated at the level of experts in the field, is that of the differentiation between “classic terrorism” and „new terrorism”. If the purpose of the old terrorism is “negotiable and limited, and the ambitions are manifested locally, in the case of the new terrorism, the purpose of the actions is unidentifiable”.<sup>3</sup>

When discussing classic terrorism, it is admitted that there is a tangible purpose to it, which can be understood as an almost rational and logical reaction of combatants to invaders, oppressors, dictators or simply to some states or governments that are considered responsible, in the opinion of the actors involved, for the degradation of the socio-economic conditions and the significant impact of the life of the community. It follows the psychic intimidation of a community, followed by the induction of force in order to circumvent the law.

In such a conflictual framework, after a series of negotiations and understandings in which the terrorists, as part of a system to be changed, present their objectives realistically and pragmatically, a solution is reached at some point. In order not to lose the confidence of the population, the audience and the possibility to negotiate, terrorists prefer to limit themselves, to destroy less, to avoid death as much as possible, being “selective and discriminating”<sup>4</sup>. They also dedicate their lives and careers to their cause, in a terrorist organization with a well-defined command and structure and, to be understood - perhaps the most important aspect - they consider that “people should look, not die”.<sup>5</sup>

If the old terrorists wanted to influence the audience and be able to take a seat at the negotiating table, the new terrorists would shake it and kill, having global ambitions. They

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<sup>1</sup> Arădăvoaice, A., Gh., Iliescu, D., Niță, L. D., *op. cit.*, pg. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Danila, O., Neagoe, V., *op. cit.*, pg 11.

<sup>3</sup> Creenshaw, M., *Explaining Terrorism. Causes, processes and consequences*, Editura Routledge, Londra, 2011, pg. 54.

<sup>4</sup> Hofmann, B., *Inside Terrorism*, Editura Columbia and University Press, New York, 2006, pg. 268.

<sup>5</sup> Jenkins, Brian Michael, Will Terrorists Go Nuclear?, available at <http://www.judithmiller.com/511/will-terrorist-go-nuclear>.

mainly pursue "over-killing", to the detriment of coercion, the classic instrument of traditional terrorism. They do not threaten and do not warn the target group, but they express their presence by producing unexpected attacks, subsequently supermediated<sup>1</sup>, to produce their effect, the feeling of terror among the innocent population.

From a political point of view, they are against Western society, but they especially hate American values, culture, civilization and way of life.<sup>2</sup> They cannot accept principles such as freedom, equal rights or universal suffrage, precisely because, although they understand the values and way of life of Western communities, they disapprove, ab initio, their way of being.

The new terrorists are solitary wolves - "lone wolves" or they are grouped into cells, which in turn are autonomous, diffuse and do not have direct support from any state.<sup>3</sup> However, their purpose is not limited, but transnational, sometimes even global, being much more radical in manifestation, and "violence is the centre of their faith." One might think that they could be "amateurs", as opposed to "classic terrorists", meaning that they do not have experience or training in camps, did not study in "madrassa"<sup>4</sup>.

However, the emergence of a new type of terrorism does not cancel the previous ones, the coexistence between the "old terrorism" and the "new terrorism" being accepted by the experts in the field, who debated this aspect.

The new terrorism, launched at the beginning of the 21st century, for reasons of logistical opportunity and human resources, will move its centre of gravity from the sphere of armed conflict to the sphere of psychological<sup>5</sup> and economic war, "(...) with the natural evolution of technology, the psychological war will have as a manifestation theatre the media and the computer field, including the launch of false information, rumors, <<arranged>> information regarding the deployment of military forces, infestation of Internet browsing systems with selective viruses, which can create calculated errors in the computerized network of key institutions in the country in conflict"<sup>6</sup>.

Technological advances are used today by new terrorists with results unimaginable not many years ago. For them it is easy to travel on any global meridian, to communicate unlimitedly in the virtual environment, to interact and maximize the power resource worldwide.

International terrorist organizations may use bank transfers and rapid media, infrastructure and assistance provided by some extremist groups, criminal support or support of corrupt regimes. In this way, they cause significant losses of human lives or material properties, and because of the possession of weapons of mass destruction, the consequences of their actions can be devastating.

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<sup>1</sup> overmedication allows transforming the attackers from the simple anonymous, into models for the supporters of the terrorist organizations on the world map.

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin, D., Simon, S., *America and the New Terrorism*, Survival, vol. 42, nr. 1, 2000, p. 66, <http://www.eusec.org/su0001te.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Crenshaw, M., *op. cit.*, pg. 55.

<sup>4</sup> Koranic schools, where Islamic subjects are predominantly taught.

<sup>5</sup> Although the new terrorism is aimed at representatives of the authorities (military, police, politicians), the attacks on civilians have been impregnated both in the collective mind, managing to modify the value system, the way of life of the citizens, limiting the freedom of movement and increasing xenophobia.

<sup>6</sup> Danila, O., Neagoe, V., *op. cit.*, pg 71.



Following the increasingly intense actions of the states, on the line of countering terrorism, and implicitly of the financing forms, the organizations of this type have oriented themselves to the cooperation with the cross-border networks of organized crime and have been concerned with the development of their own structure which, through similar milestones, is able to carry out activities as profitable as possible. In this way, most terrorists opt for illicit enrichment situations. Many of the crimes linked to organized crime have an almost inexhaustible means of illegal sources of financing. For example, the increase in demand from illegal immigrants, together with the expansion of the poorly paid labor market, have created substantial opportunities for the rapid and significant improvement of the profits of the industry.

The contemporary terrorist phenomenon, the one that characterizes the "new terrorism" could not be manifested in the absence of communication in the virtual environment, whether we refer to "propaganda, radicalization, recruitment, financing, mobilization, communication or even committing attacks, structures and the methods of modern terrorist organizations are shaped and strongly influenced by the rapid evolution of digital technologies"<sup>1</sup>, which causes the leadership of these evil groups to invest massively in modern technology and human resources, to always be one step ahead of the authorities engaged in the counterterrorism fight.

Against this backdrop, the number of terrorist organizations is growing year after year, largely supported by the authorities and even the population of the countries in which they operate, which justify some political analysts to say that we live in an era of organized crime and terrorism.

#### **4. The profile of the modern terrorist and his motivation.**

The multiple terrorist attacks since the beginning of the present century, carried out at global level, cause the specialists in the field, and even the public opinion, to ask the question: what is the profile of the modern terrorist and what is the motivation that causes him to resort to committing these atrocities that scare humanity? Are they "clever" individuals or are they just assassins, animated by primary instincts?

A first opinion, unanimously accepted, highlights the absence of a psychological and action profile of the new terrorist, but one of the defining features that distinguishes modern terrorists from the rest of the mass murderers is that the former are motivated by an ideology more than by personal reasons. Fundamentally, the terrorist is a person motivated mainly by an ideology (most often political) than by a personal inner life, by an intrinsic motivational constellation, but this line of demarcation is becoming increasingly unclear and more difficult to establish. Often, the profile of the terrorist acting in the present times, in the societies characterized by the exponential increase of criminality, is increasingly overlapping, and even identified, with that of a mass murderer, thus raising special problems for the authorities in charge with responsibilities regarding preventive actions and countering terrorist acts. The increasingly difficult understanding and deciphering of the typology of the new terrorist, as the

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<sup>1</sup> The journal "Intelligence", 22.12.2016, Article "*Internet as a tool of terror. The fear network*".

subject of the crime, determines, as a consequence, the equally laborious definition of the terrorist act itself.

Modern terrorists are mostly young people who are not integrated into the family and society, with a confused religious identity, with serious behavioral problems related to self-control and anger, with problematic personalities that irrevocably mark their inner experiences and evolution, and which determine that personal opinions to be put into practice and even to impose them on the members of the groups they belong to or interact with, by consciously and deliberately assuming the illegal character of the actions taken. Rather than being terrorists, adherents of a well-defined ideology, they seem to use the method of terrorist attacks to free themselves from their own demons and their inner lives that mark their existence.

Through their forms of manifestation, young modern terrorists are lonely actors who "do not aim to effectively participate in political life and access decision-making in the state, but to amend democracy, the political class, for what they consider to be essential mistakes (adopting multiculturalism and the abandonment of the nationalist system, being seen, in general, as an effect of conspiracies of supra-state level, etc.), in the hope of determining the officials to modify these types of evolution".<sup>1</sup>

In the last two decades, the approach of the concept of "lonely actor" terrorist is increasing, and some terrorist groups, whether we are talking about Al-Qaeda or DAES, have asked the followers to approach and involve them in their activities even if they are not fully integrated in the ideology for which they claim to be fighting.

For an isolated and extinct individual, not integrated in the community, who, from a behavioral point of view, has antisocial manifestations or violent tendencies, and who claims to seek a meaning in life, the typology of the "lonely actor" is very tempting and attractive, being understood as the supreme possibility to punish the surrounding world, considered to be the source of evil and injustice, thus giving meaning to the act or behaviour considered as an excuse for expressing anger.

From a logistical point of view, the new terrorists no longer use significant quantities of explosives to make "death devices"<sup>2</sup>. They no longer need complex action plans or costly equipment to set up and materialize the actions they are planning - killing, seriously injuring innocent civilians or installing fear - and thus transfer the pressure of claims to state authorities. The last years have marked the beginning of a new form of terrorism, the attacks by vehicles against the great human agglomerations, which have generated terror in the great European metropolis Nice, Berlin, London, Stockholm, Paris or Barcelona.

New terrorists, or at least some of them, are inventive and do well under all conditions. They must be "lucky" only once ...

### **Appendix 1.**

Lawyer J. Rădulescu formulated a sufficiently relevant definition of the crime of terrorism, as follows: "*Anyone who has used, in order to terrorize the population, against*

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<sup>1</sup> Intelligence magazine, 01.10.2015, Article "Lonely actors and the new extremist theater".

<sup>2</sup> The bomb used in the first attack on the World Trade Center, in 1993, weighed 606 kg.

*persons or property, bombs, mines, explosive or incendiary machines or products, firearms or other means causing death or destruction and who has caused or attempted to cause, has propagated or attempted to propagate an epidemic, epizootic or other calamity, has interrupted or sought to interrupt a public service or public utility, will be punished ”.*<sup>1</sup>

In the post-war period, the legal doctrine retained different theoretical approaches to the terrorist phenomenon, of which we mention: "*criminal acts directed against the heads of state or other dignitaries, against groups of persons or state or public institutions*" (Grigore Geamănu, 1946), another perspective was viewed from the point of view of committing a "*crime or felony by a specific method, characterized by violence and intimidation, which means focusing attention on how to execute the crime, the terrorist method constituting an aggravating circumstance.*" (Ion Bodunescu, 1978) from a military point of view, terrorism was regarded as "*a weapon of psychological warfare*" (Tom Mallin, 1977); being associated as an extension of terror, the phenomenon has also been defined as "*terror, as a weapon of public agitation, being an act of a symbolic character that aims to influence the political conduct by abnormal means and which entails the threat of violence or the use of violence.*" (Thomas Thornton, 1979).<sup>2</sup>

Criminology and sociology specialist Quintiliano Saldana describes the terrorist phenomenon as a "*method of mastering the masses and paralyzing the action of their members - through psychological constraint and criminal intimidation - the result is a state of violence caused by means of isolation, a succession of acts of violence, executed in order to inspire terror in a certain environment, and even through its international generalization.*"<sup>3</sup>

From a historical perspective, the famous historian Walter Laqueur considers that "*terrorism is nothing more than a bad thing, something harmful for the present. The terrorist act, in itself and for itself, is equal to zero, advertising is everything ...*"<sup>4</sup>

In his work, Gabriel Toma states that "*Terrorism is the illegal use of force, the threat of force or violence in all its forms, against persons or different institutions of the state, in order to intimidate or force the civilian population, government or other segment of the state institutions to support, approve or accept different requirements necessary for the terrorist (extremist terrorist groups) to achieve future social, religious or political goals.*"<sup>5</sup>

From the perspective of criminal international law, the doctrine qualifies terrorism by "*deliberate and systematic use of means that are capable of provoking, on a large scale, terror, in order to achieve criminal purposes*".<sup>6</sup>

If we remain in the "etymological" area of the notion of terrorism and embrace the symbolism of terror, we would agree to the definition given in 1794 by Robespierre who assimilated terrorism in the coat of terror, stating that the latter "*is nothing but justice,*

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<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings of the Fourth Conference for the Unification of the Criminal Law, Paris, 1932, pg. 134, beside I. Popescu, N. Popescu, N. Rădulescu, *International Terrorism, the scourge of the contemporary world*, ed. Ministry of Administration and Interior, 2003, pg. 25.

<sup>2</sup> Carp, G., *International Terrorism. The role of the Ministry of Administration and Interior in the prevention and control of this scourge*, Ed. Ministry of Administration and Interior, Bucharest, 2005, pg. 57.

<sup>3</sup> Bodunescu, I., *Terorismul-fenomen global*, Editura Tipoalex, Alexandria, 2002, pg. 52.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>5</sup> Toma, G., *International Terrorism, reactions of regional and global actors*, European Institute, Iasi, 2013, pg. 43.

<sup>6</sup> Cretu, V., *International Criminal Law*, Tempus Society Publishing House, Bucharest, 1996, pg. 245.

*promptness, severity, inflexibility; and therefore (terror) is an emanation of virtue; it is not so much a special principle, but a consequence of the general principle of democracy applied to the most urgent needs of a country*”<sup>1</sup>, with a vision that contravenes both democratic and human rights principles, Robespierre considers terror as an indispensable state necessity for the establishment of national order.

Also, if we treat the terrorist phenomenon from the point of view of the security guaranteed by the Defence System, Gheorghe Văduva brings us a reasonable interpretation assimilating terrorism to mere war, justifying his opinion that *"usually, behind it is a policy, which expresses an interest, a totalitarian or exclusivist ideology, irreconcilable, a religious doctrine, a creed and even a strategy."*<sup>2</sup>

Ina R. Tomescu defines terrorism as *"a phenomenon that provokes terror, its favourite targets being the politicians, institutions or buildings emblematic for a state, and the chosen places are preferably the public ones, the criminal action hurting or harassing lots of innocent people, the publicity and the echo of such a manifestation identifying itself with the proposed purpose, that of drawing the attention of the whole world to the unfulfilled claims or ideologies"*<sup>3</sup>.

A specialist in criminology, Xavier Raufer considers the terrorist phenomenon to be *"the weapon of the weak against the powerful or the attack of the wasp against the elephant"*.<sup>4</sup>

The Belgian lawyer concludes that *"terrorism is for a society what is pain for the human body, the signatory of a deficiency, of an anomaly of something sick"*.<sup>5</sup>

Air Force General Ion A. Stanciu defines terrorism as *"the calculated act of violence, carried out by a terrorist organization with capabilities of acting on the territory of several states, usually against symbolic targets, intended to produce through fear and terror a powerful message, political or religious, and which aims to gain the sympathy of a segment of the population, to provoke a country to act in a hurry, to attract new proselytes or to polarize civil society, spreading at the same time the ability to influence events or undermine governments and destabilize a significant area of geostrategic level"*.<sup>6</sup>

A final academic approach we will refer to is the view expressed at the Symposium on *"Terrorism in the Contemporary World,"* in Glassboro, New Jersey, 1978, where it was emphasized that *"International terrorism is the use or threat of using violence, with political purposes, by an individual or a group when they act in favor or against a governmental authority, when such actions seek to influence the attitude or behavior of a social group more comprehensive than the immediate victims and when through the nationality or external links of*

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<sup>1</sup> Diaconu, D.V., *Terrorism- legal and historical landmarks*, Ed. All Beck, Bucharest, pg. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Văduva, G., A chaos that kills, in "Strategic Impact", no. 3-4 / 2003, Bucharest, Center for Strategic Defense and Security Studies, pg. 121-132.

<sup>3</sup> Tomescu, I.R., *International terrorism. History, current affairs, challenges*, "Carol I" National Defense University, Bucharest, 2014, pg. 19.

<sup>4</sup> Servier, J., *Terrorism*, Ed. European Institute, Iasi, 2002, pg. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Carp, G., *op. cit.*, pg. 26.

<sup>6</sup> Stanciu, I.A., *International Terrorism. Past, present, ... future*, Ed. Technical-Editorial Center of the Army, Bucharest, 2007, pg. 23.

*the perpetrators, their location, the nature of their victims, institutional or human, or the mechanism of execution, their ramifications, exceed the national borders of a state ”.*<sup>1</sup>

## **Appendix 2.**

From this perspective, I believe that it is worth starting with the Romanian institutional approach, so that according to the National Strategy for the prevention and combating of terrorism, the terrorist phenomenon *”represents the whole of credible actions and threats of illegal actions that cumulatively fulfill the following essential features: they are committed premeditated by individuals or different types of social structures, motivated by radically hostile conceptions and attitudes towards other entities, by the perception that intolerable situations have been set up in their relations and by the will to act against them in extreme ways; they are using violent an/or destructive means and methods, accumulated, respectively programmed; they have as direct targets the individuals and / or material factors important for sustaining the social life; they deliberately propose the widespread dissemination of some states of anxiety, insecurity, fear and panic, meaning that they are organized and carried out in such a way as to ensure maximum psychological impact and induce the public perception of the underlying goals pursued, as well as social attitudes and behaviours favorable to them; they have explicit or implicit political objectives, aiming at influencing an entity - most often an established authority - usually beyond directly affected or threatened individuals; they are carried out outside the state of war or outside the scope of the laws of war, in the event of armed conflict ”.*<sup>2</sup>

Terrorism represents *”the set of actions and / or threats that present a public danger and affect the national security, having the following characteristics:*

- a) are committed premeditated by terrorist entities, motivated by extremist conceptions and attitudes, hostile to other entities, against which they act by violent and / or destructive means;*
- b) they have the purpose of achieving specific objectives, of political nature;*
- c) target human and / or material factors within public authorities and institutions, the civilian population or any other segment belonging to them;*
- d) they produce a strong psychological impact on the population, meant to draw attention to the aims pursued ”.*<sup>3</sup>

Of interest for this approach are the following definitions of terrorism:

Terrorism is *“a voluntary act committed against the life, physical integrity, health or freedom of officials; any act that endangers a community, creates a state of terror with the aim of changing the public authority or hindering its actions or seeking to disturb international relations. ”* (International Conference for the Unification of Criminal Law, held in Copenhagen in 1935)<sup>4</sup>

*”Terrorism means criminal acts aimed at a state and whose purpose or nature is to provoke terror against prominent personalities, groups of people or the public.”* (International

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>2</sup> Stanciu, I.A., *op cit*, pg. 23.

<sup>3</sup> Law no. 535 of 25.11.2004 on the prevention and combating of terrorism, updated;

<sup>4</sup> Alexandru, M., The regulation of terrorism by acts of domestic and international law, Acta Universitatis George Bacovia. Legal - Volume 5. Issue 2/2016.

Convention for the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism, 1937, Geneva)<sup>1</sup>

In Resolution 1566 (2004), the UN states that "*criminal acts, including those against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious body injury or hostage taking, in order to provoke a state of terror among the general public or a group of persons or certain persons, intimidating the population or compelling a government or international organization to commit or abstain from any act that constitutes crimes within the scope and defined in international conventions and protocols on terrorism are in no case justified by political considerations, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other, and calls on all states to prevent such acts*".<sup>2</sup>

Terrorism represents "*the wear and tear struggle of for political objectives, which are intended to be accomplished by means of attack directed against the lives or property of other persons, in particular by serious criminal offenses, crimes, homicides, kidnapping for extortion, premeditated arson, explosions caused or through the means of other acts of violence that serve as a preparation for such criminal acts*". (RFG / 1985 / Constitution Protection Office)<sup>3</sup>

"*The term terrorism represents premeditated and politically motivated violence against non-combatant targets, by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, generally intending to influence an audience. The term international terrorism represents terrorism involving citizens or territories from more than one country.*" (US State Department)<sup>4</sup>

Also, the US Department of Defense defines terrorism as "*the illegal use of force or violence - or threat to use them - to intimidate society and governments or force them to accept political, religious or ideological claims.*"<sup>5</sup>

Terrorism is defined by "*premeditation, politically motivated violence developed against non-combatant civilian targets by sub-national groups or by rogue agents, usually in order to influence a population.*" (American Code, Immigration and Nationality Law)<sup>6</sup>

Staying in the "New World" as Columbus called it, the FBI operates with the following definition; "*... the illicit use of force or violence against persons or property, in order to intimidate or constrain a government, civilian population or a segment of them, in order to achieve political or social objectives.*"<sup>7</sup>

In counterpart, the CIA states that the term "terrorism" means the premeditated violence, politically motivated, committed against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents. The term "international terrorism" means terrorism involving the territory or citizens of several countries. The term "terrorist group" means any group that practises or has significant subgroups that practise international terrorism. "<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Troncotă, C., *op. cit.*, pg. 74.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-4/key-issues/defining-terrorism.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Danila, O., Neagoe, V., *op. cit.*, pg. 22.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>5</sup> See "Vision on Global Terrorism, US State Department, Washington DC, 2003.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*, pg. 23.

<sup>7</sup> Jura, C., International Terrorism, All Beck Ed., Bucharest, 2004, pg. 20.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/news-information/cia-the-war-on-terrorism/terrorism-faqs.html>.

The French Penal Code defines the crime of terrorism as *"the actions that are carried out individually or collectively, intentionally, which have as their purpose the obvious disturbance of public order through intimidation or terror"*.<sup>1</sup> France is among the few states that have treated the terrorist phenomenon very harshly in their legislation, regulating even the situation of the so-called *"lonely wolves"*.<sup>2</sup>

The Portuguese Penal Code defines terrorist acts as *"those actions that harm national interests, aimed at damaging the integrity or independence of the state; preventing or undermining the functioning of the state institutions, as provided for in the Constitution of the country; forcing public authorities to take a certain action or forcing them not to take that action; intimidation of persons, groups of persons or even of the population of the state in general"*.<sup>3</sup>

The Italian Penal Code incriminates the crime of terrorism in art 270 thus *"Any person who promotes, constitutes, organizes, directs or finances associations that propose to carry out acts of violence for the purpose of terrorism or undermines the democratic order shall be punished with imprisonment from seven to fifteen years. Anyone who participates in such associations is punished with imprisonment from five to ten years. For the purpose of criminal law, the purpose of terrorism also occurs when acts of violence are directed against a foreign state, an institution or an international body"*.<sup>4</sup>

According to the British legislator, terrorism includes *"any use of force, violence and threat, to achieve political, ideological or religious purposes"* (...) *"serious disruption or interference in the functioning of an electronic system"* (...) *"threatening actions with the use of fire arms or explosives, which are not intended to influence the government or create a state of terror."*<sup>5</sup>

The doctrine has established that the most comprehensive legislation on terrorism would belong to the United Kingdom, but innovative legislative techniques remain in the French gardens.

### **Appendix 3.**

In the "Media and Terrorism Conference" organized by the Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir" Faculty of Political Science within the Master's Program: Security and Defence Studies, journalist Cristina Șincai defines terrorism as "mass murder + media". Referring to the case of the abducted Romanian journalists, the journalist adds that *"if it had not been for the media to publicize the September 11th attacks, no one would have known what happened there. In the case of the Romanian journalists, it was very important what the*

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<sup>1</sup> Carp, G., *op. cit.*, pg.55.

<sup>2</sup> See Law no. 2014-1353 of November 13, 2014, regarding the consolidation of the provisions regarding the fight against terrorism.

<sup>3</sup> Carp, G., *op. cit.*, pg.55.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.brocardi.it/codice-penale/libro-secondo/titolo-i/capo-i/art270bis.html>.

<sup>5</sup> The Law of Terrorism in the United Kingdom, 2001

*Romanian media was broadcasting at that time, practically deciding the life of the journalists. The terrorists were online, monitoring what was happening in Romania ”.*<sup>1</sup>

Journalist Zineb El Rhazouï, discussing the terrorist attack at Charlie Hebdo says that the publishing house provides at this moment the exact pattern that the terrorists wanted, considering that it is necessary for *"Islam to submit to critics, to submit to humor, to submit to the laws of the Republic, to obey the French law "*, considering that *"Women with veils belong and present an ideology that represents the ideology of radical Islam ... whose result is terrorism "*.<sup>2</sup>

Marketing consultant Ciprian Susanu states that *"terror, however chaotic it may seem in the first phase, is the result of thousands of well-structured and developed plans; It seems that terrorists know all too well what it means to communicate on social platforms. While they are united, we are subject to the insecurity that they are so carefully building. Not knowing where or when they strike again, ordinary people, victims without guilt, are united only to respond after attacks, or to show solidarity with the victims. "*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBiDPZtpFFI>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rt.com/news/447389-zineb-rhazoui-death-rape-charlie-islam/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cipriansusanu.ro/blog/atentatele-teroriste-e-social-media-o-arma-cu-doua-taisuri/>.



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