

## REFERENCES OF ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM

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### **ABSTRACT**

*THE AIM OF THIS PAPER IS TO PRESENT, IN A BRIEF MANNER, THE STEPS TAKEN BY ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS IN THE MATTER OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM, A SCOURGE OF THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, WHICH HAS ITS ROOTS ANCHORED IN THE REALITIES OF HUMAN HISTORY.*

*IN THE FIRST PART OF THE PAPER, THE AUTHOR PRESENTS THE CURRENT NATIONAL COMPETENCES ON THE ISSUE OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM, ADDRESSING IN THE NEXT CHAPTER ISSUES RELATED TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE LANDMARKS OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN ROMANIA, BOTH BEFORE THE EVENTS IN DECEMBER 1989, AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENTLY, UNTIL NOW.*

*THE PAPER PRESENTS A RICH NATIONAL CASE LAW ON THE ISSUE OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM, HIGHLIGHTING THE ACTORS INVOLVED, OPERATING MODE, THE SPECIFIC WAYS OF COUNTERING AND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE RESPECTIVE TERRORIST ATTACKS WERE INITIATED.*

*THE FINAL PART OF THE PAPER PRESENTS SOME PERTINENT CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE NECESSITY OF THE INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTERACT THE POTENTIAL TERRORIST ACTIONS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SOCIAL SECURITY.*

**KEYWORDS:** INTELLIGENCE, TERRORISM, RADICALIZATION, SECURITY, PREVENTION, COUNTERACTING, COOPERATION.

### **1. National competences in the issue of preventing and combating terrorism**

Considering the very complex issue of the terrorist phenomenon on a global level<sup>1</sup>, the diversification of the area and the means of manifestation, as well as the security consequences at a national level, the Supreme Council of Defense of the Country<sup>2</sup> (CSAT) decided to designate the Romanian Intelligence Service<sup>3</sup> as national authority in preventing

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<sup>1</sup> Hobsbawn, E., Globalization, Democracy and Terrorism, Cartier Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016, pg. 109, "the emergence of megaterria in the last century reflects not" the banality of evil ", but the substitution of moral concepts with higher imperatives".

<sup>2</sup> <https://csat.presidency.ro/> "The Supreme Council of the Defense of the Country is the autonomous administrative authority invested, according to the Constitution, with the unitary organization and coordination of the activities regarding the defense of the country and the national security."

<sup>3</sup> Established on the basis of Law no. 14 of February 24, 1992 (\* updated \*), "The Romanian Intelligence Service is the service organized by the state specialized in the field of information regarding the national

and combating terrorism. The internal intelligence institution has the operational capabilities required to be able to respond in a timely manner to the imperative needs of supporting the national defense and security system in the fight against terrorism.

In the context in which it is well known that the success<sup>1</sup> of an intelligence service is given by its ability to anticipate and predict the evolution of the security environment<sup>2</sup>, which allows avoiding and countering the risks, the intelligence institution has the role to identify, counter and eliminate, through specific measures, vulnerabilities and risk factors in the field of terrorism and to prevent the manifestation on the national territory of some internal or external entities, reported with concerns circumscribed to the problem in question.<sup>3</sup> For the accomplishment of these desires, the intelligence has at hand tools specific to the activity of its own institutional capabilities, respectively<sup>4</sup>: of the Department specialized in collecting, analyzing and evaluating the information regarding terrorist threats, internal threats or related to the global evolution of the phenomenon; Anti-Terrorist Brigades, with the role of carrying out specific missions of counter-terrorist intervention with preventive character<sup>5</sup> and counter-terrorist intervention<sup>6</sup> on the national territory; The Anti-Terrorist Operational Coordination Center, which ensures the connection with the authorities that compose the National System for the Prevention and Combat of Terrorism.<sup>7</sup>

## **2.Organizational and legislative landmarks of the anti-terrorist activity in Romania**

The activity of preventing and combating terrorism on the national territory has gained institutional strength since the eighth decade of the last century, when, due to the increase of the number of terrorist attacks in different areas of the world, including on the European mainland, which had as a way of operating the hijacking of some. In 1971, the national authorities adopted the decision to set up an operating group to ensure the safety of passengers on TAROM flights. Thus, it was created, and was operational a year later, with the specialization of the personnel, the sub-unit of SOIMII<sup>8</sup>, whose objective is to "prevent the diversion of aircraft as well as to ensure the security of airports and aircraft on the ground, (...) accompanied with personnel for all domestic flights carrying foreign tourists."<sup>9</sup>

In mid-1973, in the context of the amplification of the terrorist problem that culminated with the attack at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, and of the diversification

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security of Romania, part of the national defense system, its activity being organized and coordinated by the Supreme Council of Defense of the Country ”.

<sup>1</sup> Radoi, M., Information Services and Political Decision, Tritonic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2004, pages 88-89.

<sup>2</sup> Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “The role of intelligence in the fight against terror,” in European Scientific Journal, IX (2013), no. 2, p. 1-11

<sup>3</sup> Major. G. C., A war of the mind. Intelligence, information services and strategic knowledge in the 21st century, RAO Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010, pg. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “The role of intelligence in the fight against terror,” in European Scientific Journal, IX (2013), no. 2, p. 1-11

<sup>5</sup> the security of the flights of the air operators registered in Romania, the security control at the civil aviation airports, the pyrotechnic interventions and the security of the objectives in charge.

<sup>6</sup> Through tactical and / or specific procedures for pyrotechnic techniques.

<sup>7</sup> <https://sri.ro/prevenirea-si-combaterea-terorismului>.

<sup>8</sup> An institution with a pioneering character, specialized in issues; at that time only the United States and the United Kingdom had similar structures.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cotidianul.ro/romania-cinci-decenii-de-lupta-antiterorista/accesat-la-data-de-13.09.2019>.

of the forms of manifestation on the European mainland, the Romanian authorities made the decision to set up the ARTA operative group, within the Department State security, the object of which is to prevent and counteract, including through direct actions, actions taken by terrorist entities.

The diversification of the terrorist<sup>1</sup> issues globally, but also the appearance on the Romanian territory of specific case law elements, led to the conclusion of the need to establish, on December 1, 1975, the Special Detachment for Antiterrorist Intervention and the Special Antiterrorist Defense Unit, respectively at the territorial level of the first sub-units specialized in counter-terrorism issues, in order to develop counter-terrorism capabilities and to implement a unitary vision on the profile. Two years later, the Special Anti-Terrorism Unit (USLA) was set up, with concrete tasks of collecting information from areas of interest for the prevention and combating of actions with potential terrorist, the specialized intervention to eliminate the concerns of some entities to develop such actions, ensuring the integrity and security of passengers and aircraft on domestic and international flights, counter-terrorism and anti-diversion control within civilian airports on national territory, guarding and defending embassies, diplomatic representatives and accredited diplomatic personnel, ensuring the security and security of the presidential family. Generally, USLA has been known as the elite structure involved in the management of antiterrorist and counterterrorist issues during the antedecembrist regime.<sup>2</sup>

The beginning of the 90s required the reconfiguration of the attributions and missions of the Romanian antiterrorist structures in accordance with the democratic transformations in the Romanian society. The necessity of the operational consolidation of the structures involved in the counterterrorism fight has led to the transformation, respectively the reorganization of the USLA under the title of Antiterrorist Brigade, within the Romanian Intelligence Service, whose missions consist of identifying, preventing and counteracting actions with potential terrorist in the territory of Romania, antiterrorist protection of representatives of the diplomatic corps, anti-terrorist control and anti-diversion within the civilian national airports and anti-terrorist and pyrotechnic intervention. The new architecture of the institution allowed the alignment of the specific activities to the standards of the similar institutions in the western countries, context in which the first partner activities at international level were demarcated.<sup>3</sup>

In the legislative plan in mid-1991, Law no. 51/1991 regarding the national security of Romania<sup>4</sup>, which defines the concept of national security, presents and explains the threats against it, expressly incriminating terrorism as a security threat, and at the same time designates institutions with specific responsibilities in the field of national security.

Following the adoption of the UN Resolution no.866 of 21.12.2001, and in the context of the openness manifested by alignment with NATO and European Union values, Romania has joined the fight against terrorism at international level, assuming subsequent risks in the field of internal security, being able to become a potential target of terrorist groups that had their origins in the Middle East. So far, the military capabilities of Romania, in international missions to restore peace and to establish an optimal climate of social coexistence, have been the subject of numerous attacks of the nuclei of certain terrorist groups, resulting in the wounding or death of some military personnel.

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<sup>1</sup> Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “The role of intelligence in the fight against terror,” in European Scientific Journal, IX (2013), no. 2, p. 1-11

<sup>2</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism), pag.22.

<sup>3</sup> Ibidem, pag. 44; 50.

<sup>4</sup> Published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 163 of August 7, 1991.

The necessity in criminalizing the activities with potential terrorist at national level determined the Romanian authorities to adopt GEO no. 141/2001 regarding the sanctioning of acts of terrorism and of certain acts of breach of the national public order, considered to be a first institutional step on the line of the subsequent elaboration of a specific legislation in the field of prevention and combating terrorism. The ordinance operated until December 10, 2004, being repealed and replaced by Law 535/2004.

As a result of the diversification of the activities of the terrorist groups at international level, which culminated with the attacks of September 11, 2001, and in order to coordinate at national level the counterterrorism fight, the CSAT made the decision, on November 19, 2001, to designate the Romanian Intelligence Service as a national authority regarding the management of the issue of preventing and combating terrorism at national level. In this context, in order to fulfill the specific tasks of the new role with which it was invested, starting with December 1st, 2001, the Romanian Intelligence Service reconceptualized the structure of the Anti-Terrorist Brigade, under the title of the Inspectorate for Prevention and Combating Terrorism, within which would operate an informational pillar (Directorate for the Identification and Evaluation of Terrorist Threats) and another specialized in anti-terrorist protection and intervention (Anti-Terrorist Brigade).

A year later, in 2002, the national doctrinal framework in counterterrorism was created<sup>1</sup>, by elaborating the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism through which the term of terrorism was conceptualized, clearly indicated the forms and the modalities of manifestation of terrorism and national targets for the prevention and combating terrorism have been established. By establishing in the same year the National System for the Prevention and Combating Terrorism (SNPCT), the related framework for the operationalization of the cooperation between the Romanian institutions empowered in the field of the fight against terrorism and the management of crisis situations was created. In this context, in order to ensure an efficient cooperation between the institution designated as national authority in the prevention and combating terrorism and the other components of the SNPCT, within the Romanian Intelligence Service, the Center for Anti-Terrorist Operational Cooperation was established. On the other hand, in order to highlight the level of terrorist danger at national level, in April 2004, through a Decision of the CSAT, the National Terrorist Alert System was established.

The needs of improving the legislative framework in the field, in the process of alignment with the western standards, determined the Romanian authorities to elaborate and promulgate Law 535/2004 by preventing and combating terrorism<sup>2</sup>, by which the prerogatives and the pragmatic modality were regulated in a unitary vision action of the component institutions of the SNPCT, and acts or facts of terrorism were incriminated.

The legislative framework in this field was completed by the approval by the CSAT, on December 20th, 2006, of the Methodology for organizing and executing the counter-terrorist intervention - which materializes the responsibilities of the Anti-Terrorist Brigade within the Romanian Information Service, and on December 18th, 2007 of the Communication Strategy in situations of terrorist alert by SNPCT institutions. Under the first decision, on August 1st, 2008, the Inspectorate for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism takes place in the General Directorate for Preventing and Combating Terrorism,

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<sup>1</sup> The strategy represented at that time a modern doctrinal document, aligned with Western standards in counterterrorism.

<sup>2</sup> Promulgated in the Official Gazette of Romania, issue 1161/08 December 2004.

with three distinct but in the same complementary directions, which were presented in point 1.

The diversification of the forms of manifestation of the terrorist phenomenon at globally and their enhancement by the facilities offered by the cyber space, circumscribed to the general mode of the phenomenon of cybercrime, which targeted areas of strategic interest at national level, determined the Supreme Defense Council to adopt, in 2008, the decision to establish the CYBERINT National System, at same time as with the designation of the Romanian Intelligence Service as a national authority in the field of cyberintelligence. The system has the powers to investigate cyber attacks and to ensure the security of critical infrastructures in the field of IT&C in order to achieve national security.<sup>1</sup>

Five years later, in 2013, the Cyber Security Strategy of Romania<sup>2</sup> was approved, a document setting out the conceptual, organizational and action benchmarks related to cyber security. The start-up aims to protect cyber infrastructures in close connection with cyber defense policies, conceptualized to ensure interoperability with similar structures in NATO and the European Union. The reorganization of the Romanian Intelligence Service in the regional format, starting with September 1st, 2019, will provide the institutional framework for adapting the specific activities to the dynamics of the current security threats<sup>3</sup>, among which the terrorist threats continue to hold the "poster head" in the current global security architecture.

### **3. Elements of national case law in the matter of preventing and combating terrorist actions**

A country with a troubled history in the last century<sup>4</sup>, in which the periods of openness to democratic values have altered with authoritarian regimes, Romania has experienced in the last two decades of the communist regime a severe dictatorship that suppressed the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens. The development of a repressive apparatus at national level aimed at the careful monitoring of citizens, not allowing internal manifestation of activities that would affect the stabilization of the regime. As a consequence, in the case of the anti-december period, the subsequence of the terrorist problem in Romania was restricted, this being also due to specific measures adopted by the institutions with competence in the field.

In a chronological sequence, we can enumerate:

**May 27, 1971** - The hijacking at Oradea Airport, by a group of six armed persons, of a Tarom company plane that was to make a flight to Bucharest. Under the threat of weapons, the aggressors disarmed the law enforcement agencies, guarded the crew and 16 passengers, and subsequently diverted the aircraft to the Vienna airport, where they requested political asylum. The persons involved in the hijacking of the aircraft were detained, returned to the Romanian authorities, subsequently convicted for committing several offenses (hijacking, abduction of persons, theft and use of a weapon)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://intelligence.sri.ro/defensiva-cibernetica-ce-nu-stiam-despre-centrul-national-cyberint>.

<sup>2</sup> By the CSAT Decision no. 16/2013 and GD no. 271/2013.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sri.ro/articole/reorganizarea-sri-in-format-regional>.

<sup>4</sup> Flavius Cristian Mărcău, „Central and Eastern Europe – necessary stages of democracy construction”, *Research and Science Today*, No. 2(8)/2014, November 2014, pp. 93-102

<sup>5</sup> <https://romanioliberal.ro/aldine/history/singura-deturnare-de-avion-din-romania-comunista--avem-si-cealalta-jumatate-a-povestii-347251> /accesat la data de 13.09.2019.

**May 5, 1972** - Competition by the competent institutions of an attempt to assassinate the Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, during the participation of the high dignitary in a religious service at the Choral Temple, by a group of four Arab citizens working in a terrorist cell ("Palestine Liberation Organization"). The success of the mission, which led to the arrest of terrorists (on which were found weapons and ammunition for fighting), was due to the cooperation between the Romanian and Israeli intelligence structures.<sup>1</sup>

**August 24, 1975** - Some members of the Baader Meinhof terrorist group, along with their counterparts from the Black September Grouping, were trying to organize an attack on the Romanian territory, by the competent antiterrorist authorities. The terrorists held large quantities of weaponry and ammunition for the operation of the targeted plan.<sup>2</sup>

**October 1977** - Prevention of an attack targeting the Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat, which was to take place during the visit of the high dignitary in Romania, while with the carrying out of terrorist attacks on important objectives of the Egyptian state located in Romania. It is worth mentioning that the president is in the attention of terrorist groups operating in the Middle East that have maintained inclusive relations with foreign students, signaled with terrorist concerns, who were studying in Romania. The motivation of the planned attacks was determined by the revengeful feelings towards the Egyptian president, in the context of his attempts to conclude a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. It is note that three years later President Anwar El Sadat was assassinated by a command of fundamentalists who opposed the conclusion of peace with Israel.<sup>3</sup>

**November 19, 1977** - Prompt and efficient intervention of the Special Detachment for Antiterrorist Intervention with the purpose of releasing the Egyptian Embassy in Bucharest, in the context in which it was occupied by the force of a group of about 100 Iraqi students dissatisfied with the policy of the Egyptian authorities in the Middle East.<sup>4</sup>

**August 23, 1981** - The seizure of a bus in which there were several passengers, by a group of individuals armed with firearms, had been sustained from the premises of the police station in Pui, Hunedoara county. Those in charge demanded in exchange for the release of the hostages, the sum of \$ 30,000 and the provision of a helicopter to escape to the West. Failure to negotiate between the attackers and the authorities involved led to an exchange of fires that resulted in 6 dead and 17 seriously injured.<sup>5</sup>

**1983** - Following specific information activities, USLA personnel identified two Lebanese nationals of an Arab terrorist group, who had illegally entered Romania, using fake passports. Those concerned were to move with an aircraft on the Bucharest-Damascus route, the real purpose being to place incendiary explosive devices on board the aircraft, which were to be detonated after landing on the Damascus airport by remote control.<sup>6</sup>

**December 4, 1984** - Assassination of Amzi Al Musti, deputy consul of the Jordanian Embassy in Bucharest, by Jordanian citizen of Palestinian nationality Ahmad Muhamed Ali Al-Hersh, who is studying in Romania. The one in question was related to the Palestinian terrorist organization Abu Nidal, which was animated by revengeful feelings towards entities considered hostile to Palestinian interests, regardless of their geographical positioning. The

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crisana.ro/stiri/comunitate-13/tentative-si-actiuni-teroriste-in-romania-i-epoca-de-aur-a-cenzurii-80767.html>;

<sup>2</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism), pag. 14.

<sup>3</sup> Ibidem, page 24; (See also [epochtimes-romania.com/news/stefan-andrei-romania-avut-un-rol-special-in-orientul-middle-interview--43695](http://epochtimes-romania.com/news/stefan-andrei-romania-avut-un-rol-special-in-orientul-middle-interview--43695)).

<sup>4</sup> Ibidem, pag. 20.

<sup>5</sup> [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actiunea\\_„Autobuzul?](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actiunea_„Autobuzul?)

<sup>6</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism), pag. 30.

case represents an exceptional element in the activity of the counter-terrorist structures in Romania, when it was not possible to act preventively. The terrorist was subsequently arrested and sentenced to prison.<sup>1</sup>

**May 26, 1985** - The death of two pyrotechnic specialists from USLA, in the process of defusing some explosive devices located under two cars near the Grozavesti Student Complex in Bucharest. The placement of explosive devices was done by some followers of the Muslim Brotherhood group, and aimed at committing terrorist acts against Syrian students studying in Romania, who were considered opponents of the terrorist group. The death of the two pyrotechnicists had some deficiencies in the decision-making on the chain of command of the structure involved in defusing explosive devices.<sup>2</sup>

**December 23, 1986** - Identification on the Otopeni Airport of two citizens of Lebanese origin, who were in transit to the Middle East, on which were found the components of three guns and the related ammunition. Those involved maintained close ties and had to operationally support counterparts within a terrorist entity who were involved in committing a terrorist act on an aircraft in the Middle East, just three days after capturing the former.<sup>3</sup>

**August 19, 1991** - The terrorist attack that targeted Julio Francis Ribeiro, the ambassador of India in Bucharest, was targeted by four persons of Indian nationality, belonging to the terrorist group Babbar Khalsa. The attackers were animated by revengeful feelings towards the ambassador as he, as a former interior minister in the Indian government, organized a bloody assault against the Shiks' Golden Mosque occupants. The prompt action of the Romanian security forces led to the escape of the ambassador from the firing squad opened by him.<sup>4</sup>

**1993** - The sequestration of the diplomatic staff in the Sudan Embassy in Bucharest, by a group of 15 Sudanese students, who were studying in Romania. Dissatisfied with the policy of the state authorities, the attackers initiated violent actions inside the embassy, including using Molotov cocktails. The specialized intervention of the troops of the Anti-Terrorist Brigade led to the neutralization of the attackers, their retention and surrender to the law enforcement bodies.<sup>5</sup>

**March 24, 1995** - Identification and detention by the Romanian authorities of the so-called Ekita Yukiko, important leader of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group, illegally entered the national territory, with a forged passport. The case was followed by Interpol for almost two decades for involvement in several terrorist attacks on the headquarters of some Japanese companies, in which a large number of people lost their lives. Ekita Yukiko was handed over by the Romanian side to the Japanese authorities, subsequently sentenced in 2002 to a 20-year prison sentence.<sup>6</sup>

**March 28, 2005 - May 22, 2005** - The 55-day crisis of the kidnapped Romanian journalists in Iraq<sup>7</sup>, in whose release, under the coordination of a "crisis cell", the Romanian authorities, including the intelligence agencies, made a decisive contribution. In exchange for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/document-desecretizat-ce-scria-un-agent-cia-despre-n-ceausescu-si-retelele-terroriste-ale-studentilor-arabi-din-romania-comunista-1070342>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cotidianul.ro/romania-cinci-decenii-de-lupta-antiterorista>.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar\\_contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar_contraterorism), pag. 38.

<sup>4</sup> <https://radu-tudor.ro/atentatul-terorist-din-1991-de-la-bucuresti-asupra-ambasadorului-indiei>.

<sup>5</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar\\_contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar_contraterorism), pag. 56.

<sup>6</sup> [www.ziua.ro/display.php?data=2002-07-05&id=94797](http://www.ziua.ro/display.php?data=2002-07-05&id=94797).

<sup>7</sup> Romanian journalists Sorin Mistoc, Ovidiu Ohanesian and Marie Jeanne Ion, together with the US-Iraqi citizen Mohammad Munaf, were abducted in Baghdad during a journalistic investigation.

the release of the hostages, the kidnappers often asked the Romanian authorities to withdraw troops from Iraq.<sup>1</sup>

**June 23, 2006** - Expulsion by the Romanian authorities of the Iraqi citizen C. A. K. C. M., consul in Bucharest, and declaration as an undesirable person for a period of 15 years. The one in question is the follow-up of terrorist attacks on certain Israeli and Western objectives in Bucharest, if Iraq would have been subjected to military repercussions by the forces of the international coalition against terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

**June 26, 2006** - The detention by the DIICOT prosecutors of the citizen F.I.L., aged 26, domiciled in the municipality of Lugoj, for attempted terrorist attacks. He intended to detonate a handmade explosive device that was hidden in a trap car, in the area of the Student Complex in Timisoara. After converting to Islam, the one in question adopted the name Aynan Hassan Abger, a former soldier in the Bosnian Islamic Army, being indoctrinated with jihadist perceptions. He was suspected of links with Islamist groups, and would have participated, since 2000, in "religious training camps organized in Romania", a context in which he would have entered, in relation to "followers of the fundamentalist-Islamic ideology in the country and abroad, especially with Muslims from regions known as nurseries of the terrorist phenomenon". The long-term intentions of L. I.F. were to "commit terrorist attacks against US military bases that could be established in Romania, with the help of the weapons and ammunition they would have access to". He was sentenced to a 12-year prison sentence.<sup>3</sup>

**December 30, 2011** - The prosecution, by DIICOT, of M. Al-D., An Iraqi citizen, involved in terrorist activities, "for committing the crimes of constituting an organized criminal group and traffic of migrants, consisting in that, together with other persons, facilitated the entry, stay or transit of Romania, a number of over 250 Iraqi citizens ", who facilitated the penetration in Romania of members of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda, which aimed at the subsequent movement on the territory of some western states Europe.<sup>4</sup> In order to document the criminal activity of the Iraqi citizen, the justice bodies collaborated with similar institutions from abroad and had the support of the internal intelligence agency.

**December 13, 2012** - Demonstration, with the support of intelligence agencies and partner institutions, of an attack targeting a British diplomat accredited to the job in Bucharest. The person implicated in the possible terrorist act was an Iraqi citizen residing in Finland, who expressed his dissatisfaction with the so-called "western invasion" in Iraq, by the forces of the international coalition against terrorism.<sup>5</sup>

**January 11, 2013** - The flagrant detection by D.I.I.C.O.T. - Neamt Territorial Office, together with specialists from BCCO Bacau and SCCO Neamt, of a group specialized in committing crimes of violence, qualified killing, qualified destruction and acts of terrorism. The citizens of M.P. and P.D., members of a local interlocking group, initiated efforts to suppress the life of B.M., a rival of those mentioned, by placing an artisanal explosive device containing about one kilogram of explosive substance under a car. The action enjoyed the informative and technical support of the internal intelligence agencies.<sup>6</sup>

**Juli 8, 2013** - Unsuccessful attempt made by Romanian catatologist O. S., aged 37, from Iasi, to achieve a terrorist attack inside an amphitheater at the "Gheorghe Asachi"

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.zf.ro/eveniment/dupa-55-de-zile-de-cosmar-ziaristii-se-intorc-in-tara-3023265/> accesat 15.09.2019

<sup>2</sup> [www.curentul.info/actualitate/irakianul-acuzat-de-terorism-expulzat](http://www.curentul.info/actualitate/irakianul-acuzat-de-terorism-expulzat).

<sup>3</sup> [www.ziare.com/stiri/frauda/update-12-ani-de-inchisoare-pentru-teroristul-butelie-174570](http://www.ziare.com/stiri/frauda/update-12-ani-de-inchisoare-pentru-teroristul-butelie-174570).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/402-comunicat-de-presa-30122011-604/> accesat la data de 15.09.2019.

<sup>5</sup> [www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism](http://www.sri.ro/calendar/contraterorism), pag. 128.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/897-comunicat-de-presa-11-01-2013>.



Technical University in Iași, where there were about 40 students. The one mentioned was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, being often admitted to the "Socola" Hospital. The improvised handmade explosive device had an unexploded howitzer from the second world conflagration, as well as an improvised electronic system. In this case, the authorized institutions carried out a complex investigation to document the criminal activity and to bring to criminal liability the person involved in terrorist acts.<sup>1</sup>

**December 2013** - Documentation by the internal intelligence agency of the concerns of the citizen R.V., nicknamed also the "terrorist from Arad", to make improvised craft devices, in a clandestine laboratory in his own home. The one in the case was flagrantly caught by DIICOT prosecutors in his attempt to market two handmade bombs to an undercover investigator, his long-term plan representing him carrying out an attack with a trap car equipped with explosive substances. In the context of R. V.'s concerns about supporting the neo-Nazi current, the psychiatrist Florin Tudose argued that in this case one can speak of a "delusional terrorism", that is "a terrorist who has no purpose".<sup>2</sup> The suspect was deferred to the courts, being investigated later, and convicted for acts assimilated to terrorism acts and failure to comply with the regime of explosive materials.<sup>3</sup>

**December 01, 2015** - Prosecutors DIICOT - The Central Structure initiated the specific investigations against the Romanian citizen of Hungarian nationality B. I., from the aspect of committing the offenses of attempt to the offense of actions against the constitutional order and the non-observance of the regime of explosive materials. The one in question, "in achieving the revisionist-separatist objectives that the nationalist-extremist structure << Youth Movement 64 Committees >> - HVIM Hungary promotes in Transilvania in order to achieve, (...) the wishing / hindering of the Romanian authorities in the act of exercising state power in the area of the so-called "Szekler Land", (...) He assumed, and subsequently procured the means and tools necessary to make an improvised explosive device that he intended to detonate in public, in the area of Târgu Secuiesc, during the event held on the day of December 1st."<sup>4</sup> Regarding this case, officials from the SRI said "there was an attempt to terrorist attack that DIICOT, with the support of the SRI, evicted it. The attack was to take place today on the National Day of Romania. It was an improvised explosive device. I was aware of this two months ago. At no time, the integrity of Romanians was not endangered".<sup>5</sup> B. I. together with his connection with Z. S., were sentenced by the High Court of Cassation and Justice to five years imprisonment with execution.<sup>6</sup>

**December 9, 2015** - The detention by DIICOT of a L.C.B., a young man of 17 years from Craiova, involved in propaganda activities in favor of the terrorist group Islamic State.<sup>7</sup> It intends to leave the country, in order to join the terrorist group, to support the promotion of jihadist ideology globally. The specific measures taken by the competent intelligence agency, led to the documentation of the young man's activities, informing later the prosecutor's office.<sup>8</sup> The one in question was definitively sentenced to a 3-year, 4-month prison sentence.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/826-comunicat-de-presa-08-07-2013>.

<sup>2</sup> [www.ziare.com/stiri-timisoara/stiri-actualitate/profil-de-terorist-neonazist-frustrat-4395449/](http://www.ziare.com/stiri-timisoara/stiri-actualitate/profil-de-terorist-neonazist-frustrat-4395449/) accesat la data de 15.09.2019

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/727-comunicat-de-presa-20-12-2013>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/1234-comunicat-de-presa-01-12-2015>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://observator.tv/eveniment/diicot-un-atentat-terorist-a-fost-dejucat-la-targu-secuiesc-168157.html>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.euractiv.ro/justitie/extremistii-maghiari-care-au-pus-la-cale-un-atentat-de-1-decembrie-condamnati-la-inchisoare-11194>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/1231-comunicat-de-presa-08-12-2015>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.antena3.ro/actualitate/tanar-craiova-terorism-stat-islamic-328855.html/> accesat la data de 14.09.2017.

**July 29, 2017** - The detention by the DIICOT of the citizen of ICB, said "Ibrahim", domiciled in Pitesti, who was involved in propaganda in favor of terrorist groups, and conspiracy collection of information aimed at a strategic military objective located on the national territory. , to provide them to a Salafist and pro-jihadist terrorist entity operating internationally. In fact, it was intended to create favorable conditions for a terrorist attack on that strategic objective. The action of the prosecutor's office was based on informing the internal intelligence, which by specific measures documented the illegal activities of the person concerned.<sup>1</sup>

**March 29, 2018** - DIICOT-Central Structure, at the notification of the Romanian Intelligence Service, initiated investigations against a Romanian citizen of Palestinian nationality, suspected of propaganda, by supporting radical messages, in favor of terrorist organizations in the Middle East. The searches conducted at his home led to the identification of propaganda materials, documents, storage media and information systems, which highlighted an advanced stage of self-radicalization along the lines of the ideology of jihadist terrorist organizations, including in relation to the methods of committing terrorist attacks.<sup>2</sup>

**April 12, 2019** - Preventive arrest by the Bucharest Court of Appeal of AON, known as the "Jidvei terrorist", for a multitude of crimes, including propaganda in favor of terrorist groups, terrorist threat and illegal possession of substances that could be used in the manufacture of explosive devices. The case was investigated by DIICOT with the support of the Romanian Intelligence Service.<sup>3</sup>

#### 4. Conclusions

The institutional efforts of Romania, in order to align with the efforts of the western states to fight against the terrorist phenomenon, originated in the anti-december period, and have been continued and subsequently, until now, regardless of the risks assumed in the security plan.

The national legislation in the field of preventing and combating the terrorist phenomenon has allowed efficient institutional approaches in anti / counterterrorism issues, as a whole the authorities with competences in the field were not surprised by any intentions to materialize terrorist actions on the Romanian territory.

In the case of the anti-decriminal case, he highlighted mainly the efforts of some Romanian citizens to carry out actions with potential terrorist, as acts of contesting the governmental policy, or of foreign entities animated by revengeful feelings towards foreign political personalities occasionally on the Romanian territory, or compared to elements that had national links with them.

After 1990<sup>4</sup>, the case law highlights terrorist acts undertaken against some national entities, individual or collective, by foreign entities, as a result of Romania's alignment with the international campaign against terrorism, or similar steps taken by radicalized Romanian citizens, who embraced extremist ideologies.

Romania has assumed the role of being an active contributor to achieve global security, including through firm involvement in the international approach to counter terrorism.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/1876-comunicat-de-presa-29-06-2017>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/2148-comunicat-de-presa4-29-03-2018>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/2326-comunicat-de-presa2-11-04-2019/accesat la 14.09.2019](https://www.diicot.ro/mass-media/2326-comunicat-de-presa2-11-04-2019/accesat%20la%2014.09.2019).

<sup>4</sup> Flavius Cristian Marcau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The vision about international security at the beginning of the XXI century", in *European Scientific Journal*, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311

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