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Preparation Paper

Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)

"Counter Terrorism in the Greater Maghreb Region and South Asia"

1. Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)

The Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established through Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council in the immediate aftermath (28 September 2001) of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, addressing threats to international peace and security, the Security Council, deeply concerned by the increase of acts of terrorism motivated by intolerance or extremism in many regions of the world, emphasized its determination to combat any kind of terrorism by all means necessary.

Resolution 1373 obliges the States to take steps necessary to inter alia:

- Prevent and suppress (i.e. freezing of assets) all forms of financial support for terrorist groups.
- Deny safe haven, sustenance or any other support for terrorist networks.
- Strengthen boarder controls thus preventing the movement of terrorist groups.
- Prevent the commission of terrorist acts by provision of early warnings to other states by exchange of information.
- Co-operate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest and prosecution of those involved in such acts.
- Ensure that active or passive assistance regarding terrorism constitutes a serious criminal offence in the various domestic laws.
- Intensify the exchange of operational information regarding movements of terrorist persons, falsified travel documents, arms, explosives or other sensitive materials.
- Ensure that refugee status or asylum is not abused for terrorist purposes.
- Combat transnational organized crime (i.e. drug trafficking, money laundering) often constituting a source for the financing of terrorism.
- Become party as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism.

The CTC was introduced to monitor implementation of this resolution, hereby working closely together with experts on the various matters and of course with the Member States. The CTC consists of all 15 members of the Security Council, headed by two elected Vice-Chairmen/women and one Chairman/woman, currently Her Excellency Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj from Denmark. The ultimate aim of the CTC is to strengthen the Member States capacity to fight terrorism. The Committee is therefore charged with ensuring plenary compliance of the States, but also with identifying weaknesses in the States capabilities to do so. For this purpose the States are obliged to report frequently to the CTC. For States with deficiencies in legislation, funds or personnel, the CTC provides assistance. However, when the Committee reaches the conclusion that the deficiency lies in political will, it will leave the decision to take the appropriate measures to the Security Council. The CTC itself is not a sanctions committee.

The Committee submits regular reports, including recommendations as necessary, to the Security Council regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).

Security Council Resolution 1535 (2004) reacted to a report of the chairman of the CTC on the problems encountered by the Member States and the CTC itself in the implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001), establishing the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) with the aim of facilitating technical assistance to countries as well as promoting closer cooperation and coordination within the UN system of organizations and among regional and intergovernmental bodies.

Resolution 1535 (2004) also granted the CTC the right to perform, with the consent of the concerned state, on site visits.

Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) stressed the importance that any measures taken to combat terrorism must comply with the international human rights law. The Resolution further stressed the importance of the civil and religious society as well as the media and the business community to enhance dialogue, broaden understanding and promote tolerance and coexistence between different religions und cultures thus fostering an environment which is not conducive to incitement of terrorism.

The Security Council mandated the CTC with the implementation of this Resolution.

2. Review of the Maghreb Region under Resolution 1373 & 1624

The Maghreb, an Arab proverb says, is like a bird, Algeria is its body, Morocco its left wing, Tunisia its right wing. The proverb does not mention Libya and Mauritania, also considered being part of the Maghreb.

All these five states experienced a recent rise in radical Islam, posing a threat to the states inner security. Terrorist attacks have plagued these countries throughout the last years by groups linked to Al Qaeda. In 2006, the vast majority of arrested suspects regarding terrorism in the EU were born in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia having affiliations to North African terrorist groups. The Majority of foreigners fighting in Iraq are said to be Algerians. Some experts already refer to the Maghreb Region as the new Afghanistan.

On 11 September 2006 Al Qaeda's No. 2, Ayman Zawahiri, announced that the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GPSC) took on the name Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) possibly uniting jihad groups throughout the porous desert borders of the Maghreb Region.

Although these five states share similar core problems, the situation in the countries needs separate examination.

i) Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria

The second biggest African Country faces Terrorism since 1992, when the Algerian government annulled elections which Islamic groups were poised to win. As a consequence the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and later the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GPSC) started to wage a campaign of violence to overthrow the government, leaving 150.000 dead and causing damage of approximately € 30 billion. In France, the GIA became known for bombings in the transportation system in 1995 and 1996, killing 8 and wounding hundreds of passengers. Since 1998, the GSPC is considered the most effective armed group. The group has a long standing involvement with the black economy-smuggling, protection rackets or money laundering- throughout Northern Africa. In 2003, a splinter group of the GSPC was responsible for the kidnapping of 32 European tourists, which were later released against a € 5 million payment from the German government. In 2006 support cells have been discovered and dismantled in Spain, Italy, Morocco and Mali. The latest attack was carried out on 12 April 2007, when members of the group drove explosives into government buildings in Algier, killing 33. Although the Algerian military is very active, killing or arresting hundreds of terrorists every month, the desperate social situation of a considerable part of the young population often living in slums (referred to by experts as "kamikaze slums") together with the situation in Iraq favours recruiting and replenishing the numbers.

ii) Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Since the coup d'état against King Idris in 1969, which brought Muammar Gaddafi to power, Libya has been frequently accused of state terrorism. Accusations included terrorist activities against prominent political figures of moderate Arab and African countries, including the Kings of Jordan and Morocco and the Presidents of Egypt or Tunisia. Libya has also provided financial and material support for terrorist groups including the radical fraction of the PLO, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Basque separatist group (ETA). In 2003 Libya accepted responsibility for the bombing of an American civil airplane over Lockerbie in 1988, killing all 270 passengers, paying \$ 2.7 billion as compensation. In return the UN and the US lifted sanctions and eliminated Libya from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. The international community welcomed this step as a sign of Libya's return to the global community. Several terrorist groups want to overthrow the current regime, which they consider corrupt, oppressive and anti-Muslim. Among the biggest is the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), the group that, according to experts, has established the alliance between Al Qaeda and the Algerian GPSC.

iii) Islamic Republic of Mauritania

The country with twice the size of France, but only 3 Million inhabitants, witnessed in 2007 its first fully democratic Presidential election since the 1960s, two years after a military coup d'état replacing Ould Taya's twenty-one years of rule. Taya lead a hard line against Islamic extremists, making extensive arrests of alleged Islamic extremists. When after his replacement amnesty for political prisoners was given, among the prisoners some alleged Islamic extremists were liberated.

In June 2005, the Algerian GPSC, using the vast country also to escape tight Algerian military operations, launched an attack against a military camp in Mauritania killing at least 15 soldiers.

The country is put under pressure by its Arab neighbours for its diplomatic ties with Israel.

iv) Kingdom of Morocco

Large scale terror reached Morocco in May 2003, when Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (GICM) members caused several explosions at Jewish and European institutions, killing 45 and wounding hundreds. The GICM is a sunnist (salafist) terror organization affiliated with the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Its goal is to fight the pro Western leadership in Morocco and to install a fundamentalist Islamist Regime. A connection of the group with the Madrid bombings in 2004 was very likely, even though it was contested by the defendants throughout the trial. Despite resolute efforts by the government in 2004 and 2005 that culminated in the passing of antiterrorism laws and subsequent arrest of tens of thousands of suspects, the fight against Islamist terror is far from over. Several successful suicide bombers in Iraq were identified (through DNA) as Moroccans. This spring a total of seven suicide bombers, targeting European and American institutions, blew themselves up escaping prior arrest or were killed by police.

Another important issue is the human rights situation. Apart from the assumed existence of CIA prisons ("black sites"), the Moroccan government is accused of tolerating systematic torture and inhumane conditions in prisons and jeopardizing civil liberties, i.e. the freedom of expression in daily life.

v) Tunisian Republic

A pro-Western government, whose rigid repression of Islamism (banning all Islamist parties) created resentment among the population together with the country's dependence on tourism, makes the country a highly vulnerable target for terrorism. Just recently the country's economy recovered from the bombing of a synagogue in Djerba in 2002, killing 17 tourists and 5 Tunisians, and the subsequent decline in tourist numbers. The Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GPSC) cooperating with several smaller Tunisian terrorist groups is said to cross the border in numbers and to recruit within the country suicide bombers for Iraq.

The purpose of the CTC in assessing the counter-terror efforts of the states of the Maghreb is to offer a constructive analysis of the states' past measures against terror and to produce a workable strategy to bring the entire region further in line with the guidelines of SC resolutions 1373 & 1624.

As listed above, the Maghreb Region unites a variety of issues concerning terrorism. Some of the most important are:

- International and Regional security cooperation

Organizations such as the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, NATO, the African Union or the Maghreb Arab Union are all active in the region in order to strengthen border control, prevent the movement of terrorist networks or arm transports and to bring wanted terrorists to justice. The unfavourable conditions in the vast desert borders require maximum cooperation. Experts say that a solution to the tensions in the region between Tunisia and Libya and especially between Algeria and Morocco (conflict over Western Sahara) is a *conditio sine qua non* for improvements.

- Economic, political and social cooperation

Although the people of the Maghreb in general feel a strong sense of unity, they economically ignore each other (intra-regional exchange only reaches 3%). Economic experts see the problem also in the relatively small, fragmented markets, a fact that prevented a greater extent of foreign investments. The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) could unite the markets of the five countries, establishing one great, partly unified market. A solution also has to be found for the work force of approximately 16-20 million youngsters joining the labour market within the next few years, a generation who needs to be won through education and occupation. The Arab Maghreb Union could also socially and politically become an important player promoting together with its member countries a moderate, open Islam. The countries could through the AMU exchange their experiences in their fight against radicalisation.

- Fighting criminal organizations

Many of the terrorist organizations finance themselves through criminal activities. Morocco just recently introduced a new anti-money laundering legislation. Europe's readiness to pay ransom in order to free its (captured) citizens out of the hand of kidnappers is certainly an incentive to (terrorist) groups of all kinds.

- Human Rights Situation

The war on terror must not be an excuse to deny human rights. Terrorist suspects must, regardless the situation, inter alia enjoy the right to life (capital punishment in Morocco), the prohibition of torture or the right to a fair trial. Citizens shall not be deprived from the liberty of expression or the freedom of thought, conscience and religion (religion change vs. Sharia). However, in special cases restrictions to these rights may be necessary, for instance deprivation of radical imams spreading intolerance and hate. The systematic surveillance of mosques or the complete ban of Islamic parties (Tunisia) on the other hand is questionable. These problems concern also European countries where great numbers of people with Maghreb origin live in France, Spain, England or the Benelux countries. There these people are likely to be discriminated regarding asylum or the right to enjoy family life (marriage as a tool to bring terrorists to their targets) because of paranoia caused by possible attacks.

3. Review of South Asia under Resolution 1373 & 1624

i) Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Since the overthrow of in 2000, the Taliban government transformed into a rebel terrorist group that attacks a broad variety of targets including NGO members, NGO service receipts, government officials, students, journalists, etc. Moreover, Afghanistan is one of the major bases of AQ, the group which has close relationships with the Taliban. The country saw nearly 750 terror incidents last year including suicide bombing and IEDs.

A combination of radical Islamic beliefs and lucrative opium business provides strong morale and financial support for the terrorist groups.

Despite serious anti-terrorism operations led by the U.S. army and NATO Taliban still controls six provinces (mainly south and eastern Pashtun areas) and spreads its attacks all over the country. The hard-to access geographical structure of the country and the existence of tribes across the border with Pakistan make the anti-terror operations less effective. Moreover, very low level of economic development provides a proper situation for attracting new members by terrorist groups. Although the country is moving towards stabilization and democracy the long lasted underdevelopment is a barrier for anti-terror programs.

In addition to different operations against Taliban, a series of disarmament and peacekeeping programs are being run aiming to encourage individuals to abandon from terrorist activities.

ii) Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan is one of most complicated cases of terrorist activities. There are different terrorist groups involved in internal issues (Sunni -Shia conflict for instance). While at the same time some other groups whose target is out of Pakistan use this country as one of their bases for hiding their leaders, recruiting new members and training their fighters. Moreover, the government of Pakistan has constantly been alleged with the supporting of terrorist groups in the Kashmir area of India. Finally there is a nationalist movement in Balochistan which fights for independence. Therefore a mix of state terrorism and different type of anti state groups can be found in this country.

The roots of terrorism in Pakistan is hence complicated and goes back to the religious and ethnic structure of the country, its chronic conflicts with India and out of access border areas in Afghanistan side. Moreover cooperation's between Pakistani government and the U.S. is one of causes that enrages radical Islamic groups.

In addition to military operations against bases of terrorist groups, especially AQ, the country is passing legislation to limit money laundering which can be an important financial source of terrorist groups.

iii) Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

For long time Liberty Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting the central government in different parts of the country. The group has been applying innovative methods especially regarding suicide attacks. The group is collecting its financial resources both through its supporters all over the world and through taxing the local businesses in areas controlled by the group.

The group targets military forces and the politicians. Recently the group assassinated some senior commanders of the army, Foreign Ministers and some high level government officials.

In order to limit the access to financial resources the U.S. is cooperating with the central government on banking operations.

iv) Republic of India

There are three distinct types of major terrorist groups in India: The Islamist groups in Kashmir who fight for independence and are claimed to be supported by Pakistan. They target security forces, politicians and civilians. Hundreds of people (including Muslims) are being killed each year due to their attacks. A train bombing in Bombay in 11 July 2006 which killed more than 200 people is one of worst attacks associated with this group.

The Maoist Naxalite group is active mainly in eastern, central of southern area, which controls some rural areas and is increasing its attacks during the recent years.

Finally, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is an ethnic separatist group that has conducted several terrorist attacks against security forces and civilians in north and eastern state of Assam.

v) Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

Some extremist Islamic groups are active in Bangladesh including JMB and HUJJ.B. The groups are accused to conducting bombing and suicide attacks targeting western institutions and rival political groups.

The government is trying to limit the activity of these groups through banning some political groups supporting them. Furthermore, at least one Islamic bank was accused of violating anti money laundering laws in favor of these groups.

Bangladesh is also a possible base for Indian terrorist group ULFA while the government of Bangladesh has repeatedly denied any connection with it.

The government tries to improve the border control and anti money laundering acts to weaken terrorist activities.

vi) Nepal

Maoist insurgents form the major terrorist group in Nepal. However after a successful uprising against the central government which was run by a coalition of political parties, civil society and Maoist activist, the group is shifting its activities mainly toward political issues aiming for participations in the coalition government.

The unilateral ceasefire announced by Maoists in April 27 2006 followed by the similar reaction by the government led to a series of negotiations which eventually binged about a comprehensive peace agreement.

However, despite of the ceasefire the rebels have still been continuing conduct of abductions and violence. This year the country faced a new Maoist group called JTMM which aims to bring about the secession of the southern Terai plains from the west of Nepal. This group is responsible for the assassination of a Nepal MP.

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